

JUBILEE REMINISCENCES



BY W. A. COHOON



EX LIBRIS
UNIVERSITATIS
ALBERTENSIS

Prairie Provinces Collection

41 #50-

JUBILEE REMINISCENCES

and

History of the Macrorie and Bratton District
with Biographies of the People



By W. A. COHOON



The Author with his Father and Two Boyhood Chums, taken in 1907
at Birr, Ont.

Huber Coleman, W. A. Cohoon, George A. Cohoon, Jim Lambourn



My Prairie Homestead, now the summer home of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Kinsman

INTRODUCTION

A mineral geologist, reading the story contained in oil-drilling core samples, could perhaps give us an interesting though technical hint of things under our prairies "as they were in The Beginning." But many ages ago there was definitely, at least, tropical vegetation, insect and animal life, in a level below Macrorie. Great and dramatic changes followed one another.

When Man first appeared in this region is still an unanswered mystery, and whether some human creature lived in our tropical forests is not yet determined. The great Ice Age, or several of them, surged down from the Arctic in great glacier masses covering our land. Geologists tell us the ice receded several times only to surge southward again bearing huge amounts of rock and pulverized rock, or clay. Then as the ice of the glaciers finally melted under the advancing warmer skies, which has been estimated as 20,000 years ago, the materials of our present soils were deposited and left behind. Also there were tremendous amounts of water resulting in huge lakes everywhere, but especially in what is now the South Saskatchewan River area west and northwest of Saskatchewan Landing, again roughly many miles broad over the Milden-Rosetown-Plenty area, and among others, the great Moose Jaw-Regina-Yellowgras plain.

Because of the ice barriers to the north, drainage was first south to the Missouri River, later through the South Saskatchewan River and Qu'Appelle Valley to the east, and finally north-east as the Saskatchewan River cut its own channel. There are many interesting local channels such as the Blackstrap from the Saskatchewan River (when ice still barred the way at Saskatoon) over east Dundurn and Watrous through Long (Last Mountain) Lake to Qu'Appelle Valley near Lumsden. Also a large portion of the glacial lake stretching, from Dinamore and Milden west and northwest to Rosetown, drained out through the Red Deer (Stockwell) Lake to the South Saskatchewan; a valley-like depression in that same lake beyond Rosetown was eventually able to drain to the North Saskatchewan through Eaglehill Creek.

The soil in the Macrorie-Bratton area is generally classified as "Weyburn loam" described as "medium textured soils on glacial till (boulder clay) deposits" (subsoil). Nearer and at the river the subsoil is "silty glacial lake deposits" indicating the time when a large volume of silt-laden water could not drain away northward.

Rocks in the Macrorie fields are not native but were carried down by the Ice Age glaciers from the northeast. All limestone burned by the early settlers to supply quicklime for brick and stone mortar, and still found scattered over the fields and ravines, was "imported" from the Hudson Bay or less distant regions. Limestone is of course an ocean-floor deposit of coral or similar marine life from at least a semi-tropical era. In the vicinity of Flin Flon and Amisk (Beaver) Lake you do not have to be a geologist to read the story. There where the Precambrian rock is swept clean by the glaciers, the heavy scratches from moving ice and rocks show a straight south-westerly track toward Macrorie! Some of the sources of reddish limestone are also there, such as the spectacular Limestone Crevasse area at Amisk, and the cliffs at Limestone Narrows south of Flin Flon. During the summer of 1954 I picked up a fine specimen of fossil limestone from the remains of Alexander Henry the Younger, his place built from local stone in 1775. Two weeks later it was most in-

teresting to pick up a similar specimen in the hills of Matador Ranch near Kyle; the source of both fossils being probably the same. White limestone came from nearer Hudson Bay; in the Flin Flon region huge round boulders of it (worn thus by rolling) are to be seen perched on the highest rock ridges while others have rolled into the hollows.

The Macrorie region does not appear to have been the actual home or wintering site of any of our modern Indians. The Blackfeet wintered mostly in the south or in the Rocky Mountain foothills, but during fur trade days when they acquired horses (indirectly through the Spaniards in Mexico) they ranged far out over the prairies on hunting or raiding parties as far east as the Elbow and north to the Battle River. The Crees were originally of the wooded areas to the north and east but on acquiring firearms at Cumberland House and Swan River they also moved into the prairie regions and pretty well occupied the area east of the South Saskatchewan River down to the Qu'Appelle Valley. In doing so they apparently drove the Gros Ventres (called Big Bellies because they were "always hungry") from the Melfort-Nipawin region, over across to the Biggar-Battleford vicinity. The Gros Ventres thus became the occupants of the space between the North and South branches of the Saskatchewan River and no doubt hunted over the Macrorie district during many decades.

The terrible smallpox epidemic of 1781 resulted in the death of nearly two-thirds of their number, as it did in other prairie tribes. Because of this tragedy and being less favored by the fur traders, they became quite unfriendly to the white man and it was they who destroyed the South Branch trading post (60 miles north of present Saskatoon) on June 24th, 1794, butchering the men, old women and children, and carrying the younger women away into slavery.

However by 1850 when the great buffalo hunts were on, both the Blackfeet and Crees were hunting all over the area and clashing in frequent raids or battles. Through the urging of fur traders and missionaries a grand peace pow-wow was held by all tribes near Battleford about March 1856, but the declarations of friendship were almost immediately nullified by rash young Crees and their horse-stealing raids. Two such incidents that summer reopened hostilities during which the Blackfeet inflicted swift death and torture. The Palliser Expedition recorded details of some 25 Crees escaping across the river on previously constructed rafts behind which they led their stolen horses, only to be eventually overtaken in a deep ravine near the Elbow. Seventeen of the party were immediately killed and several others left for dead. One of these minus his scalp accompanied Palliser some distance, and was quite embarrassed and self-conscious of his deficiency!

Apparently there were at least yearly hunting parties of Crees crossing the river from the east bank not far from the Macrorie area, and ranging westward occasionally even to the foothills of Alberta. Some returned with scalps and trophies while others ended in complete disaster, and it would seem the whole area west of the river was a sort of dangerous yet enticing no-man's land. A final great battle occurred in the Vermilion Hills south of Riverhurst in the spring of 1866, wherein estimates of Blackfeet losses range from 400 to 600. Isaac Cowie, Hudson's Bay trader from Fort Qu'Appelle saw the bleached skeletons scattered over several miles of the battlesite a few years later.

Other than possible travelling fur traders, the Palliser Expedition was apparently the first notable group of white men actually to travel

across the open prairie very near Macrorie. From Moose Jaw Creek the expedition travelled to the Elbow, back along the river, crossed over near present Riverhurst and then headed northward. In the Sandhills west of Elbow they shot a grizzly bear on Sept. 29th, 1857, and buffalo were plentiful. Their route continued north past Red Deer Lake and Goose Lake to Fort Carlton on the North Saskatchewan River.

The next official visitor to our area was Prof. Henry Hind, during 1858. While the Palliser Expedition was for the purpose of determining the suitability of the prairies for farming, Hind was sent to investigate the possibilities of navigation, as a means of transportation, up the Qu'Appelle River to Elbow, as a link in a water route to British Columbia, where gold had been discovered. Oddly enough he reported the route fairly feasible, in spite of the difficulties encountered, provided a dam were built just below the Elbow to divert water down the Qu'Appelle.

At the Elbow, Hind recorded that thousands of buffalo were crossing the river a few miles down stream (opposite Dunblane) and could be heard all night. A few days earlier he had witnessed the slaughter of hundreds in a buffalo pound just east of Elbow by Chief Shortstick and his band. At the Elbow itself many Crees were streaming eastward across the river to avoid battle with a large Blackfoot party following the buffalo herds. From there Hind and his party passed down the Saskatchewan River opposite Macrorie on July 31st, in a birch bark canoe, to examine the country. He records "with the exception of the Cree encampments passed during the first and second days of our voyage, we did not meet with a single Indian or halfbreed. Once or twice smokes, (which from their being soon answered from another quarter, we presumed to be signals; and might be raised by Blackfeet in the distant prairies,) appeared on the west side of the river."

Between then and 1900 there were probably a few other visitors of less distinction to these parts, and of course the ground was fully covered by land survey parties.

Then on a late fall day of 1904 a tall slim Ontario boy gazed out across the empty rolling prairie with an appraising eye. Not a furrow of cultivated land was in this area between the South Saskatchewan River and Red Deer (Stockwell) Lake where he had come to choose a homestead; but barren and lonely as it must have seemed, compared to the East, this was the fulfilment of a dream. Although young Will Cohoon had left his London township home on a harvesters' excursion his real purpose, like many others was to seek a farm of his own in this new land of broad horizons. Here for the modest fee of \$10 was his choice of a 160 acre tract, free of tree clearing labor and capable of producing the world's finest wheat. When a selection had been made the young pioneer sought out the survey markers to identify the legal description of the land, and several alternate choices; and from that moment he became dedicated to a lifetime of prairie farming and the building of a new western community.

William A. Cohoon was the third son in a family of four boys and two girls. His father was of Scotch United Empire Loyalist stock while his mother was Irish Canadian. The family name is an adaption from Colquhoun, the first of whom touched the shores of America as a soldier in the Imperial Army serving in the New England Colonies. He was another William (being one of eight consecutive generations bearing that Christian name) and in addition to his military career was one of the

original purchasers of Block Island, Rhode Island County, in 1662. He was later killed in the King Phillips War of 1675. His descendents settled in Chatham, Mass.

A fourth generation, another William Colquhoun, left New England as a U.E. Loyalist, settling near Liverpool, Nova Scotia, with a son Stephen, and apparently adopting the name Cohoon by that time. Stephen grew up to become a marine captain trading along the Eastern seaboard, and was the father of George A. Cohoon who migrated to Ontario, married Mary Anderson, and became the parent of the William Cohoon here telling his story.

Of this family the oldest boy Wilfred proved to be an outstanding scholar who applied himself diligently, and on graduation from Birr Elementary School, won numerous awards. At the University of Toronto he won scholarships each year of his course and graduated with a Master's degree and the McColl Gold Medal, together with a fellowship at Princeton, which earned him a Doctorate. He served in the armed forces during the First War and although suffering ill effects he became professor of Classics and "brought fame to himself and Mount Allison University" by indexing the eleven volumes of Plutarch's Lives in Loeb's Classical Library, and translating two-and-a-half volumes of Dio Chrysostom, a task he was unable to complete owing to ill health and his death at age 68.

Of such is the Cohoon stock; but meanwhile the uncertain health of the parents and death of the mother at age 41 during 1897, deprived the other children of similar opportunities. They received only modest educations and devoted themselves loyally to their father and the duties of the Birr farm. As this did not offer a future for all the family, and the second son John had pretty well assumed management, Will was the first to break away, and came West to seek his fortune.

The eldest sister Leila was a clever student and good athlete but stayed home to keep house, and on contracting tuberculosis died at the early age of 23.

The younger brother Joe followed Will to Macrorie and took up a homestead in 1911 southwest of town, but lived and worked with Will. In 1928 he married Evelyn Rogers of Aylmer, Ont., and the next year they built their own home. However with the coming of the depression they gave up farming and moved back East to Toronto in 1933, where after a few years Joe became employed with the Dept. of Highways and has risen to a good position. They have one married daughter and three grandchildren.

The younger sister Pearl also came West about the time of the father's death in 1913 and kept house for Will and Joe until 1918 when she married Harold Metcalf. They have one daughter, Lella, who is married to Ken Grant of Mawor, Sask.

Will has remained a bachelor, and perhaps his rather unusual record of farming and public service may be partly credited to his lack of matrimonial distractions. In any event he has served his community faithfully and well, in many capacities. Through his story you may read between the lines of his pride of accomplishment, whether it be the personal solution of a farm problem or the joint effort of a group of which he was a member. It is not possible to tabulate all the virtuous works of a good neighbor and citizen such as Will Cohoon, or evaluate the benefit to a community of his ever-helping hand, his faith in the future, and his quiet friendly personality.

During the early Westhope days, Will performed all manner of tasks from exchanging farm labor to freighting supplies, going for a doctor, carrying the mail or helping buy grain at Outlook. Some of that mail carrying was under hazardous conditions, crossing the river by boat through and over ice floes, with an occasional passenger. With the coming of the railway to Macrorie he was one of the first grain buyers, and operated the Canadian Elevator from 1912 to 1916 while continuing to live on the farm. He served as councillor for Division One of the R.M. of Fertile Valley from 1921 to 1926, and was Reeve for 1928 and 1929. Surgery in 1930 interrupted his municipal activities which he later avoided in favor of helping with other more local affairs. He was Secretary-Treasurer of the Grain Growers, the Livestock Pool and Macrorie Co-operative Association for various terms. He was for many years Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Macrorie Rural Telephone Company, a difficult and time consuming position. He also served as a member of the Wheat Pool Committee, and for a few years as Chairman of same.

From 1929 to 1954, 26 years, he was crop correspondent for the Statistics Branch of the Saskatchewan Dept. of Agriculture, and during that time supplied some 300 reports. A similar service was rendered to the Agriculture Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, and very nice letters of appreciation from the heads of those departments were sent when he tendered his resignations.

When times were extremely bad during the early Thirties, Will performed valuable service in the difficult task of administering relief throughout the Macrorie area, as a member of a committee set up to review the relief applications from Fertile Valley residents. That his services were appreciated, is borne out by two letters sent to him personally, one from the Secretary of the Saskatchewan Relief Commission, and the other a personal letter of thanks from Premier J. T. M. Anderson. The Premier's letter mentions that the distribution carried out by the Commission "involved the provision of the necessities of life for nearly one-third of the men, women and children in our Province" and, along with other words of appreciation, said: You have rendered a valuable service to your community and Province during a time of great human distress, and on many occasions, I am sure, you did so under difficult circumstances and at very considerable personal sacrifice."

This tribute applies equally and fittingly to the many other services which Will rendered on behalf of Macrorie district. Now, even though he has retired from the scene of his life's more active labors, and normally should feel his remaining years might be spent in the quiet enjoyment of his boyhood environment, he has responded to the suggestion of a final contribution to the community he helped to found, and of which he was a part for fifty continuous years. He realized the story of the pioneers is one that must be told before it is too late, and took up his pen even though feeling modestly unqualified. In doing so he has found the task even more difficult than expected; there has had to be much research and actual travel to supply facts and dates; there is the trouble of expressing thoughts and impressions, and always the fear of overlooking a person or event well worthy of mention; the cost of publication is far beyond any possible returns, but he has regarded the expenditure as a duty rather than a burden.

It was a fortunate turn of events for Macrorie and the surrounding district when on that October day of 1904, young Will Coboon paused out on the empty prairie and said, "Here I will make my home."
Moose Jaw, Sask. W. H. METCALF

PREFACE

It has been said, "Life is an Adventure;" but whether or not it is a thrilling and great adventure, depends entirely on ourselves. Our daily lives are enriched by reading of the daring exploits, unusual experiences or accomplishments of others. Numerous success stories are an inspiration to all of us and reveal the opportunities everywhere throughout our country and in distant lands, for anyone who has that spark of ambition to accomplish great things.

How thrilling to have climbed Mount Everest, made a great invention, discovered a cure for a dread disease, ran a mile in less than four minutes, or even to have written a splendid book! We cannot all attain fame or accomplish the very unusual, but we can share in the thrill of great deeds to the same degree as our understanding and appreciation permits.

As for myself I am just another very ordinary person having no claim to unusual accomplishment; but I have always liked adventure whether it be in everyday life or even in the fiction of Robinson Crusoe or Swiss Family Robinson. Apparently it is human to venture, for we see in the First Book of the Bible where that great man Abraham left his people and home country, and went out "not knowing whither he went."

It was at least partly my love of adventure which prompted me to leave home at an early age and travel to the new Canadian West, that much talked of distant region where a person might acquire the privilege of occupying 160 acres of virgin land by depositing ten dollars and taking the chance of making good. Later I learned the cost of those acres amounted to much more by the time homestead duties were finished. As the Irishman said, "The government puts up 160 acres of land against your ten dollars, and should ya win the land is yours; but sure if ya lose they still have the land - and your ten dollars, be-japers!" I know of many who filed on homesteads but never received their patents, and of course lost their deposit. Some would find the life too lonely and give up; others would go away to work; or for the winter and stay too long and their homestead entry would be cancelled; while others sought greener pastures, or for other various reasons, the first person to make entry would not become owner of the land.

I was born and raised on a farm near Birr, Ontario, in London Township, County of Middlesex. My early education was acquired at Birr School, S.S. No. 5, and although some prominent and highly educated men and women graduated from there, I was not fond of studies so did not make a good scholar.

It is not my wish to have too many "I's" in this story, but of necessity there will be many; they are not used for the purpose of self praise but rather because the incidents were my personal observations or experiences. Here mentioned are two or three occasions during my farming years at Macrorie that afforded me much satisfaction, bearing in mind that my first ambition was to be a successful farmer and also a worthy citizen.

About 1925 I started growing corn, mostly as an experiment as we were uncertain whether corn would grow so far north. However I sent to Manitoba for some northern grown seed of a variety being grown with some success in southern Manitoba. I kept sowing my own home grown seed each year and this corn really did very well; there was never a

failure, and I always had fully matured ripe ears. Of course I didn't attempt growing more than a few acres each year.

Finally in 1930 there was enough interest in this type of crop to hold a Corn Show at Weyburn for the whole province, which was divided into zones. Our zone was No. 3 which included all the area north of the South Saskatchewan River and Qu'Appelle Valley. Although not too hopeful, I spent many hours selecting the very best ears I had and entered them in the show. My exhibit was ten ears of Yellow Flint Corn and I was fortunate in winning First Prize. My neighbour Harry Williams also won First Prize for his White Dent Corn, and a trophy for the best exhibit by a new exhibitor.

Naturally we were elated with our success, as were others of the Macrone district and Dr. Harman, president of the Agricultural Society at the time was instrumental in holding a banquet in our honor. It was a very enjoyable affair for all who attended.

Then during the early 1940's I was surprised one afternoon at my home by a number of neighbors and friends who came with good wishes and plenty of rats and after spending a social hour or more presented me with an easy chair and side table. This again was a most pleasant occasion for me personally to know my presence in the community was so appreciated, and the event was quite unexpected.

When the Macrone Agricultural Society building was completed in 1928, we of course used it during the winter for skating and curling and a Curling Club was formed for the winter 1928-29. Although I lived three miles from town and had never curled, I thought I might like the game and joined the club. It was a very enjoyable winter and I became enough of an enthusiast from then on to attend bonspiels at Outlook or Saskatoon. In the spring of 1947 I entered a rink in the Outlook Bonspiel with Adolph Roseth as a star ship along with Norman Ingell and Cecil Barrie. We did very well and won one of the cups, which was another pleasant occasion and the only time a rink of which I was a member won a trophy away from home at a Bonspiel.

During 1954 I sold the balance of my Saskatchewan farm land feeling I was no longer able to operate a large western grain farm, and still somewhat in the spirit of adventure purchased a small farm near my old home at Hart, Ontario, where I will have something to do if so inclined.

However I still have Saskatchewan interests, and while visiting and reminiscing with Winfred (Bud) Metcalf, who is Chairman of the Moose Jaw Museum Committee, he urged me to write about my homestead experiences and record the history of Macrone district as I knew it. In undertaking the task I have added brief biographies of those I knew best and especially of the pioneers. Bud offered to help, and without his assistance this publication would not be ready now. Bud has had some experience with stories of this kind, in his museum and historic sites work. He also pointed out there are few left around Macrone who could give first hand information about the pioneer days.

In compiling the material for the following pages my memory has been sorely taxed, much searching of records has been done and many letters written for information. The verbal comment and statements of numerous Macrone people has also been of much help. There will no doubt be numerous errors and omissions for which please forgive me. But if this labor, which I have enjoyed, will preserve for posterity, something of historic value and pioneer romance, then I will be amply repaid.

I will here quote a verse from the pen of the Saskatchewan Poet
Edna Jacques.

The taste of wheat upon the prairie wind,
The smell of sage and flax and ripened briar,
A settler's shack, a windlass by the well,
The blue smoke of a smouldering prairie fire;
These are the things of which I am a part
And fill the little crannies of my heart.

December, 1966

W. A. C.

CHAPTER 1

JUBILEE REMINISCENCES OF THE HOMESTEAD DAYS

By William A. Cohoon

THE HARVEST EXCURSION

During this year of 1985 A.D., when Saskatchewan celebrates it's Golden Jubilee, I am one who can truly participate in observing the historic occasion, as this is also a personal Jubilee of my coming to the West. Through the following pages I will try to tell of my pioneer days just as the various incidents and occasions are recalled, in the hope it will supply at least something of interest for The Record concerning the district in which I have lived all my active adult life. I trust it will not seem as though I consider my experiences so different from those of most any young fellow who came to this new country about that time, in fact I am sure they were quite typical. But even as each new settler had his own individual background and at least slightly different ambition as a citizen, while toiling under somewhat altered circumstances, so his personal story differs to a similar extent.

At the age of sixteen, and as a farm lad of Ontario, I became enthused with the idea of going West to seek a homestead. There was much talk during that time about the free land in the Canadian West then being surveyed for settlement and the home farm I could see, should eventually go to my older brother as he had spent more years helping with the work, than I. So, with all the talk of free prairie land and huge waving fields of grain, the West appeared to be a place of wonderful opportunity for a young fellow such as I.

However my Father persuaded me to wait at least another year as he thought I was too young and of course I was under age anyway, to make a homestead entry. The Homestead Act was later amended so a parent or guardian could hold a homestead for a 17 year old, for one year if both were resident farmers.

So it was during the following fall of 1904 that I started out on a C.P.R. Western Harvest Excursion with another young fellow, Seymour White who had been a school chum. I can well remember the long trip from London to Winnipeg in one of those colonial cars, I was so excited with the expectations of this trip and thrilled with the beauty of the scenery along the way that I slept very little, and of course the hard bare bunks in the car didn't help to induce sound sleep, for anyone who had been used to a good bed.

This was really a unique Harvester's Excursion as far as Burr was concerned as so many of our young people and also some older ones were on that train going west. Naturally I do not remember all of them but among the number, in addition to Seymour White and myself were Charlie Sinclair, Tom Cluff, Alf Williams, Fred Desjardine, Charlie Hobbs and wife, George Harris and daughter Madeline, and Madeline's friend Alf McRann.

Charlie Sinclair worked in Manitoba that fall and finally made his way to Saskatoon where he joined in a partnership with Austin Meedham and a Mr. Thompson, running a bakery for a time, and also a real estate and insurance business. Charlie still lives in Saskatoon. Tom Cluff finally located near Wadena, Saak., and other members of his family joined him

there. I understand there was a post office, Cluffville named after them. Alf Williams lived in different parts of the West and later moved to the U.S. Charlie Hobbs and wife were just out for a trip, and after working for relatives a time returned to the East where they had a Machine Business in Lucan, Ont but both have now passed on.

On a previous excursion Cyrus Newell who owned the Burr store, went West with his family to Swift Current where he bought land and started farming. George Morrison who worked for Newell in the store at Burr went West at the same time and clerked for many years for the Moose Jaw Hardware Co. He later moved to Toronto where he died.

While passing through Northern Ontario we noticed the merchants in the towns where the train stopped were none too friendly. Then we learned that a previous trainload of excursionists had not been very orderly and had done quite a bit of damage in some places. It seems at one town they hitched a new motor on behind the train and ruined it. Then another story was that they had stolen a cow and took it along with them in the baggage car so they would have milk on the train. Several different people told about these acts of vandalism and while I cannot vouch for them, I know some of these fellows would stop at nothing.

Our excursion tickets were made out in such a manner that we had a month to get as far West as we wanted to go. After that time had elapsed we would have to pay ordinary fare extra, in going from one place to another. The excursion fare from London to our destination was \$12, and \$18 for the return trip.

We arrived in Winnipeg very early one morning and loafed around the station until daybreak. Then when we were walking up and down the platform about 7 a.m. we noticed a very well dressed gentleman drive up in a carriage. He had a coachman sitting up in front handling the horses and a very fine team they were. We overheard this man remark that he was seeking for harvest help so we spoke up and told him we were looking for work and were accepted. He then took us in his carriage to his city home for breakfast and it was during this drive that we discovered we were being "entertained" by the Premier of Manitoba, The Honorable R. P. Roblin.

After breakfast he took us to the Canadian Northern Railway Station and we all went by train out to his farm near Carman. We started stocking barley that afternoon and worked there a number of days. This was a large farm of two or three sections of land and six to eight men worked there. We found the work hard and the hours pretty long. The foreman told us to go out when the hoppers started in the morning and come in when they quit which was not until after sundown. But of course we had an hour off at noon and lunch during the afternoon. For this we were paid by the day at the rate of \$2.00 with board and lodging. The hired help slept in a separate house but we had our meals in the living quarters of the foreman whose name was Cowan.

On our way from Winnipeg to the farm we had intimated to Mr. Roblin we would like to go further west on our excursion tickets before it was too late and he said when he came out from the city again he would take us back with him, if we wished, and could go on from there. So we soon did that, taking the train from Winnipeg and going on as far as Carberry.

It was very late when we left the train there, and we hired with a farmer named Joe Marshall who lived near Brookdale, which was twenty

miles or more north. We started for his farm right away, but as the horses were slow we were on the road a good part of what remained of that night. Our wages were to be forty dollars per month and board. The next day we were sent out to stack some oats that had been cut before we arrived and, as it was raining, we got a good soaking. I complained about this when we came in at noon but the boss said if we weren't satisfied we didn't need to stay. On pondering this briefly we realized it was a long walk to town, that it was at least a little more profitable to be working than to be on the move, and that the rain had now stopped. Anyway we did stay and helped cut the crop, and had most of it stacked by the time our month was up. I don't think he asked us to work in the rain again, but he had a car-load of cordwood which I'm sure he bought just before we came so he would get it sawed and split while he had extra help. When the weather was not good for field work we were sent out to the woodpile.

We were somewhat discontented and unhappy in our work at Marshall's but thinking back we were rather young for such a hard grind, and also at least a little homesick. The land here was rather sandy and there were a lot of garter snakes which was one thing I didn't like. Then during a real hot day we ran into our first experience with flying ants. I was driving one of the binders and I was soon covered with these pests which also bothered the horses and they were almost ready to bolt. However, the boss told us to put some black cloth up on our binder whips, the idea being the ants would go up there as they were attracted to any high, dark object. Anyway they were quite a nuisance.

Marshall surely roused us early in the morning, but hardly as bad as the farmer in the story we have heard. As the yarn went he hired a new man and the first morning wakened him away before daylight with instructions to go out stacking oats. Whereupon the man enquired of his boss if he were growing wild oats, and was he expected to sneak up on them in the dark?

As I had come out by C. P. R. I had to get across country from Marshall's to a place called Douglas, which was the nearest C. P. R. station, to report, and as I had no other means of travel except walking, I started out one morning along a very lonely trail through some sandhills and rough country. On the way I became quite homesick and thought if I could only get back East I would be quite content to stay there. However on reaching Douglas, assuring myself of the return rate whenever ready to go, and returning to a good sleep at the Marshall's that night, I was again feeling O. K. by next day. We had to get some railway agent to accept our statement that we had worked for 30 days. Then we were entitled to the cheap return ticket home.

When our month was finished my chum went to Franklin to visit some relatives or friends and I took another job with a neighboring farmer, Charlie Gowan who lived quite close to Brookdale. This was a good place to work as they used me like one of the family and I really enjoyed my stay there. But soon I became uneasy and wondered if I was delaying my trip too long, to Saskatchewan, or Assiniboia as it was then, to locate a homestead.

On telling the boss I would have to go, he seemed sorry and sought to discourage my leaving by saying it was no use going away West to farm as the C. P. R. would take such a freight toll out of the grain I might grow, that farming could not be profitable. However my mind was made up and nothing could change my plans.

CHAPTER 2

FINDING A HOMESTEAD

On leaving the Charlie Gowan farm at Brookdale I made my way back to the railway and started for Regina. On the train I met some young fellows who were going to the Battleford country to look for homesteads. I decided to go along with them, but while waiting at the station in Regina thought I should take advantage of the opportunity and enquire at the Land Office for information as to where homesteads could be found in that area. I had some trouble locating the Office and also could not get waited on right away because of the crowd of homestead seekers with the result that when I arrived back at the station the train had pulled out. Fortunately for me those boys I had met threw my luggage out on the platform as the train was leaving. This particular train was known as the Homesteader's Special.

Now having to wait for the next train I had plenty of time to enquire and look around and I secured some maps of the country west of Hanley which was just opening up. I also met an elderly man Mr. C. S. Rogers from Hanover, Ontario, who was going to Hanley by next train to see if he could find homesteads for his boys. So we travelled together, but when on arrival my friend saw the kind of a trip it would be to go out fifty miles or more across the Saskatchewan River and perhaps tramp over rough ground he got discouraged and went back to Regina.

Hanley at that time was just a small village built mostly along the east side of the street facing the railway. West of the track the land was flat and you could see a very long way out over the bald prairie. To the east the land was somewhat rolling.

Being now on my own again I walked around town and soon met a Norwegian farmer by the name of Ole Ness who lived on the river bank 25 miles west of town. He had come in with a team and wagon, and said I could ride home with him the next day and that he would take me across the river and help locate some homesteads. I of course had those maps showing what lands were open at the time I had procured them in Regina, so was able to indicate about where I wanted to go. Ole said he would drive me around for six dollars a day and not charge me anything for riding out to his place.

Naturally I was glad to accept his offer and went along with him to his farm where I spent the night. The following morning we proceeded across the river on way of the ferry that had recently been put into service just below Ole's farm. This was the first ferry to be installed between Saskatoon and Saskatchewan Landing and became known as the Rudy Ferry, taking its name from N. A. Rudy who took up land on the east bank of the river and operated a country store and post office also named Rudy. The R. M. of Rudy No. 284 also was named after this pioneer, and more recently there is the Fertile Rudy Co-operative Savings and Credit Union at Outlook. He also supervised the operation of the ferry for a time but hired men to help with the work. The first regular ferryman there was Bert Dordall who still lives at nearby Outlook. After the ferry moved to Outlook in 1909, Mr. Rudy moved to Branderick and ran a store there until he passed on as a very old man.

Getting back to my trip of 1904, when Ole Ness and myself had crossed over to the west side of the river, we then drove most of the day over land that had just been burned over by a prairie fire. In fact this

fire had been clearly visible about thirty-five miles away, the night I had arrived at Hanley, and a spectacular sight it was as it lit up much of the western sky. There were many buffalo skeletons scattered over the prairie, showing up plainly on the black ground, and it was evident these animals had been slaughtered in great numbers not so many years before.

In the afternoon we arrived about 25 miles south of the ferry after keeping fairly close to the river in our travels. There was no sign of habitation anywhere except one sod shack which had been built by a Scandinavian homesteader by the name of Bert Brakke, and which was about straight west of the present town of Outlook.



Oxen, the early settlers main source of power
Donald Metcalf and his Oxen hitched to binder

When we arrived at Township 28, Range 8, W3M, which is about 5 miles north and east of the present village of Macerrie, we could see a tent across the valley that runs across the centre of this township. This valley is an interesting natural feature and later it was known as "The Flats" to the many who crossed it. About a mile broad, it is a dry flat river bed formed near the close of the Ice Age and afforded a more direct flow for the South Saskatchewan than it's present route. Between the old and new channels there is an area of high prairie land consisting of several sections which may have been an island at one time. It is at the south end of the dry valley where the Interprovincial (Oil) Pipeline comes down and crosses the River on it's route from Edmonton to Duluth.

On the October day Ole Ness and I arrived at the valley we saw that over on the east side the grass had not burned and on arriving at the tent we found the family there had saved this area by setting a "backfire." This was a common method of saving buildings or otherwise stopping a prairie fire, and consisted of lighting a new fire on the windward side of the buildings along a line at right angles to the approaching fire, being careful to immediately snuff out the near edge of the backfire by means of wet bags or brooms. The other edge of the fire was thus allowed to creep back against the wind and the widening burned area created an effective barrier to the oncoming prairie fire. The tent family had by this means fortunately been able to save a good area of grass as feed for their cattle and horses.

These people, the Harvey family, were very friendly and put us up for the night. Staying with them at the time was another pioneer, Charlie

Creeper who said he would drive us around next day with his own team and wagon to look for homesteads, and free of any charge

Both our hosts and Ole Ness were very fond of hunting, so when setting out in the morning they had their rifles along and were on the lookout for game. There were some antelope and plenty of deer in the ravines along the river, but as our driving took us more westerly onto the open prairie it proved an unlucky day for the hunters. However we looked over a number of homestead quarters and I made several choices in addition to noting some land which I thought might interest my friend Dr. Rogers who had turned back at Hanley. He had said he would be in Regina when I returned.

While driving around with these good people over the bald, burned-off prairie I was really thrilled with the look of this new country, and the thought of all this new land waiting for settlers and cultivation. I couldn't help but think "This is the life for me and I'll surely come back."

The following day turned out to be quite foggy making it unsafe to go anywhere. The rolling prairie hadn't a landmark and without the sun you couldn't tell what direction you were going. Even if we had a compass it would not have helped us on this trip. You had to be able to see where you were going so to avoid getting hung up in the deep ravines running out from the river. I was of course anxious to get back but we could not get going until late afternoon when Mr. Ness said it was safe to start. I must mention here that I had no idea at any time of the direction we were travelling. If my guide Ole had not known what he was doing I would soon have been lost. Later when I had settled in the country for a short time I was able to keep the directions right in my mind, even though the trails of those days went in all manner of winding routes according to hills, sloughs and ravines that had to be avoided, and for some years did not follow the road allowances.

However on that day we kept going toward the ferry and arrived there very late that night but only to find our troubles were not over. As we reached the ferry, tied up on the west bank, we found that someone had brought across a pile of lumber but had not unloaded it and probably intended coming back in the morning for it. Ole Ness was a pretty quick tempered fellow, and just about then there was an explosion, even though we were fortunate in finding the ferry on the west bank instead of the east.

We didn't want to take the lumber back and leave it on the other side so we set to work and threw it all off. I think I moved about ten per cent while Ole was throwing off the balance. Then we drove our horse and buggy on and started across. Then we found there was a cross current in the river running against us and we had to wind the ferry across by means of a crank. While we were both laboring on the crank, I somehow lost my hat in the river. But we kept on winding up the cable and finally reached the east bank after a grind of about a quarter of a mile, and the most difficult part of our journey was over. We made the ferry fast and went on up the hill to Ole's home for a good night's rest. The next day was Sunday.

I was still some 25 miles from the railway and being Scotch, didn't think it necessary to hire anyone to drive me to Hanley, so just walked and was there to take the train to Regina on Monday.

On reaching Regina I was quite anxious for fear the land I had looked at might all be taken up by homesteaders before I reached the

Land Office. It was possible someone had been out to look over the country and file his application ahead of me also in those times a lot of would be homesteaders were filing homesteads by proxy for their friends and thus taking up a lot of land without seeing it. In this way they could hold it until they had time to get out and look at it. However with my family good that I was able to file on a homestead for myself and was able to give some information to Dr. Rogers, who was waiting for my return that enabled him to file on some land for his sons.

Concerning Rogers he was a dentist and had at least four sons. From the information supplied him, and without seeing the land he filed on the West Half of Section 24-27-8- W3M for two of his sons Bert and Percy. The other half of that section was taken up by the Lauenstein family along with adjoining land. Rube Rogers farmed the N.E. of 26 for some years, while a fourth son Alf took up the S.E. of 26 which is very close to Macrorie. Bert and Percy didn't bother much with their land and worked out later having jobs in the Macrorie Hotel. Percy finally settled at Star City. Both spent some time around Outlook.

A cousin of Rube's was Angus McKinnon who homesteaded the quarter that became Macrorie townsite the N.E. 20-27-8. Angus later ran a lumber yard at Glenora and he also came from Hanover, Ontario. Ed O'Neil who was International Harvester Company Agent at Outlook for some years and Mr. Knutson, druggist who had a business in Macrorie for some time and was also secretary of the Agricultural Society, were both from Hanover, so my chance meeting with Dr. Rogers no doubt had something to do with bringing quite a few settlers to the Outlook and Macrorie districts.

Some readers may wonder how we found the land we were looking for. This was possible of course from the survey stakes, the land through what is now the Macrorie area was marked where four sections cornered. A square hole about two feet wide and a foot deep was dug in the corner of each of the four sections and the earth from these was used to build a mound in the center of the group of holes and exactly covering the spot where the four sections cornered. Then an iron survey stake was driven into the mound. This stake was a square one and fitted over the stake was a tin plate about six inches square with a square hole in it. The sections town or range were stamped on the plate from which it was of course easy to read what sections extended in four directions from that point. Each stake and plate was located on the north-east corner of each section so the road allowances were always to the east or north of the stakes. Half mile stakes were also placed on the east side of each section, but only on the north side of the sections bordering a road allowance east and west.

It wasn't long until Indiana land seekers or others had carried away many of the tin plates causing confusion and making it necessary to identify the lands at a certain stake from known sections a mile or two away. Later it seems the survivors stamped the numbers with a die on the four sides of the stakes, but still there was trouble when people carried away even the irons in spite of the danger of penalties for so doing.

Once you found the corner of a section you could then run a line to the next mound with a compass. This meant you had to know how to use a compass as the magnetic pole is not straight north and the instrument had to be set about ten degrees to one side. The mounds extended in a line along road allowances, and there was one every half mile, so there was no argument as just where a quarter of land started and stopped.

there. In finding the "inside" corners of each quarter, between survey mounds it could be done by using a tape or a measured stick perhaps a rod long, but we usually tied a handkerchief on the rim of a buggy or wagon wheel, and counted the number of revolutions necessary to make a half mile, found by measuring the wheel circumference, and dividing. A full section of course contained 640 acres "more or less" according to survey errors or necessary corrections, and a quarter was 160 acres.

However as related, back in that late fall of 1904 I had rather proudly made my homestead entry October 18th, on the N E of 4 28-8, w3M, a few weeks after I became 18 years of age. Since I had all the time planned on returning to Ontario for the winter I then boarded the train for the East and soon experienced another pleasant incident. When passing through Manitoba in the middle of the night, and partly asleep sitting in the coach, I was awakened by some people getting on the train, and there was my chum Seymour White who had parted from me at Brookdale, although we had not arranged to meet again in the West. So we had an enjoyable journey home together.

I have been asked what was meant by having to do homestead duties. Of course the Government wanted to get settlers on this new land who would stay and make their homes there. We had to break and cultivate ten acres a year for three years or 30 acres during the three years. We had to live on these homesteads six months in each year for three years. If you fulfilled these regulations you could make an application for Patent.

CHAPTER 3

EARLY FARMING EXPERIENCES

After spending the winter of 1904-05 at home in the East, and having reached Saskatoon quite early in May, I had to make arrangements to get out to my homestead some 80 miles south and west from the city.

Saskatoon was not very large at that time. The buildings along First and Second Avenues were erected quite close together, and substantial, but on the west side of the railway tracks there were only scattered houses and other structures. The train from the south crossed the river over a pile bridge which was soon replaced by one of more substantial pier type but with spans still of timber. The new bridge was necessary because of the damage each winter and spring from river ice. A ferry was operating between Saskatoon and Nutana and was located about 300 yards down stream from the railway bridge.

Very shortly after arrival I met a man by the name of Jack Sample who was farming near the present town of Delisle. He was in the city for supplies and I made a bargain with him to take me along to his place, and then drive me on to my homestead next day.

Sample had a fine team and light wagon, and we started off to the south quite early in the morning. There was no trail to follow and we just drove on through the sandhills and over the prairie until we arrived at the Rudy Ferry from which we had a trail to follow until finally reaching the Harveys. Where the tent had been the fall before, they now had a frame house and a pole-and-sod barn. Sample stayed overnight with the Harveys and started for home next morning. I never met him again although I drove by his farm many times, on my way to and from Saskatoon. He passed on about two years ago.

One of the first tasks I had was to get a shack of some sort built on my homestead. I hired Charlie Harvey, and with the help of him and his team and wagon we hauled some poles from a ravine near the river. Such ravines were the natural drainage channels of the wide open prairies, leading to the river or inland lakes, and the only other places where trees of any size were growing. Some of these ravines became deep wooded valleys as they approached their outlets, such as The Big Ravine southwest of Outlook.

We made a frame for a shack out of the poles, cut sods from the bottom of a nearby ravine (so there would be more root fibres to bind the soil) and covered the pole frame with sods both around the walls and over the roof. The structure was made in such a way it could easily be converted into a stable if needed for that purpose.

My land was two or three miles from the Harvey house and I stayed with them while building the shack. One day when making that trip from work we saw two animals coming over the prairie towards us. Naturally we stopped the horses to get a better view, but then they stopped also, and after a quick look at us they wheeled and ran off in the opposite direction. Charlie said if we had just kept driving along and not stopped the wagon, these antelope would likely have come much closer as they are very curious by nature.

I spent some time with the Harveys getting the shack built and looking around the countryside. Then I went over near Hanley and found work at the large Mansell farm which consisted of ten sections, or 6400

acres of land. They had five or six outfits of horses breaking up the prairie sod, the number of outfits at work each day varying as to the men and teams that could be spared from other jobs. A Minneapolis steamer was also breaking steady, the engineer being Ole Hendrickson who later farmed near Swanson a number of years. A young fellow named Anton Finstad was hauling water for the steamer, he later died during the flu epidemic of 1918. There was also a full time blacksmith on this farm to make repairs and keep the plowshares sharpened, his name being Frank Gibson. Two brothers, George and Bert Bouleau, from what is now the Conquest district, were hired hands as was Engelb Dordall, a brother of Bert Dordall who was then operating the Rudy Ferry. Of course we did not have just the same men all summer as they kept changing a lot. The foreman's name was George Jones, whose wife was chief cook.

Other men working on the Mansell farm were Fred Knight, who drove an outfit of horses, Evan Irvakson who was the fireman on the Reeves steamer (he was killed in a farm accident several years ago), Ole Olson, who worked with the steamer tending plows the homesteaded west of the river and now lives retired in Outlook, "Charlie the English man, who also tended plows and later joined the North West Mounted Police, "Mac the Scotl man," who had a homestead just North East of Mansell, and Ben Holleston, who later farmed near Anerley and worked a time on the C.N.R. Section at Bratton.

My work was driving four horses on a wooden-beam walking plow, with wages to be thirty dollars per month. We had to get up early and leave for work before 6 o'clock as we were breaking over three miles from the buildings. We took dinner out with us and were home early for supper.

I expect I told Mr. Mansell I could handle horses allright, so they started me out with a team which turned out to be runaways. I was not warned, and some of the other men waited to see what would happen as these horses had run away a short time before, breaking a disk to pieces and getting rather badly cut up around the legs. I could see the scare on one team but did not know the cause. About the second day when going back to work, these runaways started off like a thunder bolt and as I could not hold the foot of them hitched to a wagon I just let them run until they started to slow down a bit. Then, using the ends of the lines as a sort of lash I kept them going until they really wanted to stop. So that was all the running those horses wanted to do that summer.

I worked there most of that season and until after harvest was finished. That fall my brother John came west to visit me and he also worked on the Mansell farm. After threshing he accompanied me over to my homestead and stayed for a time before returning to the East. I stayed with the Harveys that late fall and winter and also did what work I could on my homestead.

One day late in the fall I went with Charlie Harvey to hunt deer, driving by pony and buggy. I didn't have a rifle or know much about firearms so was pretty much a spectator and did the driving. After covering some miles we located a young deer in the ravine that joins the valley on Sec. 16-28-R, and Charlie managed to shoot it. Being satisfied with this we loaded it in the buggy and drove home thus ending a short but successful hunt. We not only enjoyed the venison that winter, but Charlie's father tanned the hide into useful leather.

We hauled wood from the banks of the river and spent much of our time those short winter days cutting and chopping blocks for the stoves which burned a lot of that soft poplar and maple. Also we hauled water for the stock from the river, in barrels on a stoneboat. But this was a rather splashy job getting up the banks and, believe it or not, sometimes when the weather was real cold we hauled water in grain sacks. We would drive down on the ice and cut a hole large enough so a pail could be used to dip, then fill the sacks and tie them, and pile them on the stoneboat like bags of grain. When the temperature was very low the water would not seep through the lightly woven sacks and on reaching the stable we carried the sacks of water in and dumped them into barrels before the warmth could thaw them.



My Brother John, who visited me
in Saskatchewan in 1905

I enjoyed staying with the Harveys as they were very friendly and hospitable. In addition to Jim Harvey, Sr., and his wife, they had a family of three boys and two girls. Jim Jr. was the eldest boy, then Fred with Charlie being the younger. The oldest girl Yeatrice was down East training as a nurse, and Edith was at home. Jim and Charlie were very good shots with either rifle or shotgun, and loved to hunt. They also had a number of wolf-hounds and used to run down coyotes which were quite numerous in those years.

The winter of 1905-06 soon passed and I was somewhat relieved to find I could live through the very cold western weather. I had been wondering how I would keep from freezing when the thermometer went down to 40 or more below zero.

When it seemed spring was near I decided to buy some oxen so I could start breaking up my land. From a man over on the east side of the river I bought a team of young animals and brought them down to the river bank rather late one night, but in spite of all manner of persuasion they would not step out onto the ice so I had to tie them to some scrubby trees close by and leave them until morning. There was an American family named Farden living near the river crossing, on the west side, so I had John Farden help me get the oxen over the ice. I also bought a steer from the Harveys, so that after breaking it to work I had three small oxen to pull a wooden beam breaking plow.

By this time quite a few settlers had moved into the district where Macrorie and Bratton are now, or between Red Deer Lake and the river. The place always went by that name even up to very recent years, although the official name on provincial maps is Stockwell.

It was very lonely staying on these homesteads during those first years but we thought we had to do it in order to put in our residence duties and tend to the breaking and cultivation of more and more acres. I was fortunate though, that summer, as two Irishmen who had been

clerking in Montreal took homesteads and bought a section of land between my place and the Harveys. They were George and Tom McConkey with whom I soon became friendly and we worked together a lot. They had a team of oxen and some machinery, and took a try at farming even though they had very little experience in Canada. They lived in a tent that summer.

As for myself I built a shack with lumber hauled from Hanley with my oxen. Another new neighbour, George Gibson, lived to the east of me and I exchanged a lot of work with him as well. George was originally from Guelph, Ontario, but had first stopped off for a time in Manitoba and had come over with the Kendalls. We all managed to break some land that summer and get it worked down ready for crop the next year.

It was a real undertaking to make a trip to Hanley with oxen as we would be away three days and spend two nights somewhere on the road. In those days the mosquitoes were a constant pest, and at night they were really terrible making rest and sleep almost impossible.

Sometimes when camping out over night we could hear coyotes and wolves close by but they never offered to touch anyone. These wolves were said to be what remained of the famed Buffalo Wolves which grew fat and numerous during the fur trade days when buffalo were slaughtered in great numbers. Actually the first buffalo wolves were timber wolves which came out of the northern tree country as scavengers attracted by the easy meat to be found in countless carcasses of buffalo left by hunters. As the years passed they became light in color thus blending with their prairie surroundings. Considerably larger than coyotes they may still be seen in various parts of central and south-east Saskatchewan.

A favorite place to spend the night on the Harvey trail used to be near a bog slough about ten miles east of the river where there was always plenty of grass for the oxen. We had a disagreeable experience one night when George Gibson and I were making one of these trips and had camped somewhere near the Maxwell farm. The oxen had been tethered out to feed and we had made up our beds under one of the wagons. Just as we were having a good rest a violent storm came up. The thunder and lightning were terrible and the rain came down in torrents accompanied by a high gusty wind. The oxen broke away and George went out to find them while I tried to keep our blankets and all else from blowing away. Everything was soaked and there was a small river, it seemed, running under the wagon. After the storm had passed on and the oxen rounded up it was useless to think of a good sleep or even trying to go further before morning, so we just lay down in our wet clothes, made the best of the situation and rested as well as we could.

During the early winter of 1906-07 I went back to Ontario for a visit after selling my oxen and leaving what chattels I had in care of the Harveys. Winter set in early that year and turned out to be a very severe one all over the West.

On my return trip in the spring I left London on March 25th but didn't reach the west side of the Saskatchewan until April 25th. When coming west from Winnipeg on the old Canadian Northern we ran into a blizzard at Humboldt. We were stranded there about ten days with the Railway taking care of us. We had some meals in the dining car and some at the hotel, meanwhile living in the coaches day and night. This became a very tiresome holdup as there was such a crowd of people

marooned there, several trains had gotten as far as Humboldt before they stopped bringing any more from the East.

As there seemed little chance of getting out of there for some time, four of us decided to hire a man to drive us to Aberdeen. Along the way between Humboldt and our destination we saw a locomotive buried in snow in a deep cut, and it was also off the track, this probably being the reason it took so long to clear the road. From Aberdeen we took a train to Warman and from there on to Saskatoon. I had to wait there some days before getting a train to Hanley.



H. A. Metcalfs Home in the very severe winter of 1906-07

On reaching there I met the McConkey boys who had also been away for the winter and had just arrived at Hanley on a train from Regina. They too were held up by blocked roads. As the Rudy Ferry was not yet in operation we arranged to drive with some neighbours out to the farm of Sam McTaggart on the east bank of the river opposite Harveys. As we had to wait some time longer before it was possible to cross the river owing to the unsafe ice following spring thaws, we helped Sam with his work in exchange for board. He was then working on the land part of the time in spite of the fact the ice still lay in the river. Sam remained a bachelor all his days and has now long since passed on. He had a sorry experience one night a few years before he died. Some thugs came to his house and beat him up and took his money.

When we finally arrived at our own farms it was rather late spring but we seeded what acreage we had ready, and as machinery was scarce I sowed my own and the McConkey crops by hand. Though inexperienced I had seen my father sow field crops by that old hand broadcast method when I was a boy in Ontario. Ole Farden used to refer to my means of seeding as using a "double shoe drill," the shoes being on my feet. The crop came along very well and as I had bought another team of well broken oxen I was soon doing more breaking.

When haying time arrived the Harveys, McConkeys and I worked together using the Harvey machinery, and put up several stacks of hay. Ole Farden and his brother Knute bought a threshing machine and did all the threshing for the district but of course most of the crop grown at that time was for feed.

The crop next year, 1908, was looking very good but just as the grain was maturing the season turned dry and hot accompanied by high winds. I was away on a trip to Hanley just when I should have been cutting my oats, and on returning found the hard wind had shelled them out so there was nothing to harvest. The wheat was badly shrunken and the yield small. We had to haul this to Hanley, some 60 miles where it graded No. 3 and sold for less than 60 cents per bushel. The grain buyer in Hanley who bought my first load of wheat was Ed Vernon who became a prominent grain man and was well known around Broderick, Outlook and Conquest.

During the fall of that year the railway, Canadian Pacific, came to Outlook, so some of us young fellows from around Westhope post office (at the Harvey farm) crossed the river with Harvey's boat and walked up to where the steel was being laid just east of Outlook so we could see how the job was done. It was interesting to see the track laying machine, ahead of the locomotive were several flat cars of ties and rails from which a considerable gang of men carried these materials and layed them ahead of the engine. As each new pair of rails became partly bolted and spiked, the train moved ahead that much. Behind the locomotive were water and other supply cars.



Some of Outlook Elevators in 1902

P. E. Yahn on Wagon with Team and the operator Ten Kangas

The 1900 crop was very good and I engaged the Larson brothers to thresh that crop. Their cousin Louie Larson also had an interest in the machine and they all lived about ten miles south and east of Westhope, near the present farm of Mr. Kvale. Louie Larson did some trapping, and about that time caught a bobcat and brought the pelt to the Westhope store. I took it on to Hanley and sold it for him for \$12.00. I remember he explained to us the difference between a bobcat and a lynx, the bobcat

being smaller and with a tuft of hair on the forehead which a lynx does not have. This pest was over four feet long

The La sons had a large thresher with a 36 inch cylinder and this was needed in the district as there was too much for the Farden machine to handle alone

By this time I had traded off my oxen and obtained a team of horses from Mr Harburt, father of Les Harburt, for 200 dollars. With all this wheat to haul I was busy for some time. But now we hauled to Outlook and to make a trip from my homestead it could be made in one busy day. The ferry had been moved closer from Rudy to Outlook but sometimes there was a long delay owing to a lineup of as many as 20 teams and perhaps slow crossing due to adverse currents or shallow water

After my full s work was finished I took a job as second man at the Canadian Elevator at Outlook. The owner's name was Tom Knaggs who was a fine fellow to work with and never became cross with me no matter what mistakes I made. However he was always cursing himself because of losing his glasses, pencil or something and not knowing where to look for them

Outlook, 1 year old



By this time there were four elevators at Outlook, the Canadian, the Hall, the Imperial Elevator Companies and the Lake of the Woods Milling Company Elevator, these being in addition to the Outlook Flour Mills which was a large concern for a rural area, and among them they took an estimated half million bushels of wheat that fall of 1909.

Those were of course boom days for Outlook, it was not long until much of the grain trade went to the new towns of Macrorie, Bratton and Conquest across the river, and during the depression years three of the Outlook elevators were torn down. The remaining elevator was lost by fire, and the flour mill was finally purchased by the Federated Co-ops. They in turn sold the mill to the Wheat Pool who after a few years had the buildings torn down also, much of the machinery being installed in their new mill at Saskatoon. Accordingly Outlook probably has the unique distinction of being the only town (or village) in Saskatchewan having no grain elevators - a very unusual sight for the prairies. The

farmers of that area of course have elevator accommodation at nearby Broderick and also just across the river to the west there are two elevators at Hataek Spring (commonly called "West Outlook")

The spring of 1910 was a very early and warm one a picnic being held that year at Ferry's Lakes on Good Friday which was in March and the day was like summer. The Ferry's Lakes, as we called them, were actually just a chain of fairly nice sloughs that ran through the centre of Sec. 18-28-8, W3M

However that also turned out to be a very dry summer of extreme temperatures, and there was a light snowstorm during June. That fall I had my threshing done by the Bratton Syndicate which was made up of a number of farmers who had clubbed together in the fall of 1909 to purchase a machine from a farmer named George Johnson near Outlook, so they could get their threshing done.

As would be expected that 1910 crop was very light and soon threshed so on completing my farm work I went to Outlook and looked after the Monarch Lumber Company's yard for a time while the manager Bert Moore was away in the U.S. for a holiday, at which time he also married. On his return I took over the Canadian Elevator as Tom Knaggs was leaving, and as there wasn't much grain to handle I managed the job without any trouble.

That spring of 1910 I rented some extra land from a Mr. Parsons who lived about a mile south of my homestead. He and his son-in-law William Wardell homesteaded the West Half of 31-27-8 and were of course close neighbors. I dug a well for them between their houses, with one of the Metcalfe boys usually helping. This was my first experience at digging a deep well which turned out to be 40 feet and with good water. The crop on the Parsons land was badly hailed that year. I have not suffered as much loss from that cause since.

The 1911 crop was very good but we had trouble finding a thrasher. So some of us rented the Bratton Syndicate machine and managed to get some threshing done, but the machine was badly in need of repairs and soon played out. Snow came early and much of our stacked grain was blanketed in white, including all the Parsons crop. The men I had wouldn't work in the snow, but fortunately Ernie Hedden came to my aid and we shook off the snow and stacked everything. Ernie was a bachelor farmer living with his brother a few miles north, and also a brother of Dr. H. G. Hedden who erected the first building his office in Outlook.

Later on Nels Anderson came up from the south with a log machine and threshed what crop was still out, but owing to shortage of help I had to just run the grain onto the ground in piles. The Anderson machine was at F. B. Harvey's when the big snow storm came. When again able to start up, Nels finished Harvey's, then Homer Metcalfe's homestead, Charlie Harvey's, then my crop, and finally finished on the land that A. T. Murray had rented from Wm. Wardell. It took about two weeks during those cold short days.

The Canadian Northern had built a branch line that fell to our new village of Macrose, branching off at Delisle from the Goose Lake line out of Saskatoon. There was no station agent as yet but there was a sort of unwritten rule that when a train of cars arrived the first farmer to place a bag of wheat in a car could load it for shipment. This was when I first met Bob Casullo who was really an expert at "catching"

cars in this manner. However I one day managed to get into a cattle car that had come in loaded with lumber, and claimed it for my wheat. The lumber was consigned to the local Western Canada Sawmill Yards whose agent was George Hogarth and I arranged with him that as soon as the lumber was unloaded I could fix the car up and load it.

Being a stock car it was quite a job to make it fit for grain, and also it was standing in an awkward place on the south side of the "Y" used for turning locomotives at this end of steel. That made it hard to get to with sleighloads of grain, and there was still the hard work of shovelling the grain up over the grandoor, from the low sleigh. It was to be another thirty years almost before mechanical loaders did away with such labor. I finally managed to get the car shipped and in due time received word from Winnipeg it had graded "No. 3 Tough" a phrase that later became very familiar to Western farmers. The wheat was quite plump and of good color, and should have been No. 1 had it been dry. I thus shipped my first car of grain and it had reached the terminal by stock car!

CHAPTER 4

THE PIONEERS

Attempting to list the first settlers of the Westhope, Macrorie and Bratton districts, and telling something about each one, is of course a big and difficult undertaking now. The few who came in fifty years ago and stayed are not so hard to remember, but to recall the many who arrived during the land rush days, when most homesteads and available farms were then taken up is a real task, and especially to tell something of their origins and activities. In order to make the record as accurate and complete as possible the municipal records and maps have been examined and the names marked on a map of my own, but even after checking and rechecking I will here apologize for any errors and omissions that may occur.

To add to the difficulty not all were homesteaders, as much land was for sale by land companies, in addition to the Hudson Bay and Railway. (School lands were not available for settlement or cultivation for some years, but after a brief time could be leased for natural hay.) Also some people came in for a year or two, then gave up their homesteads and moved away.

The following is a listing of names by townships, with an indication of racial or national origin where possible, and lands mentioned in this story of Saskatchewan pioneers are of course West of the Third Principal Meridian.

In Township 27, Range 7, we had the Holmlund family, the Fosbergs, the Solberg, Hagberg and Skogstad families, Ivar Kvale family, Ed Lee, Mike and Fred Finstad, the Andersons, and Fred Bae. These were all from the United States but were of either Norwegian or Swedish ancestry.

In Township 27, Range 8, there was the Berquist family who were Norwegian, the Tyocquet family from Belgium, Jack Pretty family from the U.S., Jonas Johnson and wife who were Scandinavians, Joe Semans and wife from U.S., but of German origin, the Williams family who were English, and the McQuarrie family from Manitoba. Mrs. McQuarrie was a Kendall before marriage and a sister of Mrs. George Gibson. Then there was the Isaac Holmes family Irish, Mr and Mrs. Bill Danakin, and the Wm. Kendall family. The Kendalls were English but had first settled in Manitoba. The boys, Bill, Albert, Jack and Sam also took homesteads nearby and farmed on their own. In addition to farming William Sr. was a stone mason and carpenter, and built the nearby Goodwill School. The foundations of this and other frame buildings of the time was of fieldstone and the necessary lime for these and chimneys was burned from local deposits of limestone. Sam Kendall was married before leaving Manitoba and they had a family of three girls and a boy.

The Barlerys were from Eastern Canada, while the Yahn and two Metcalf families came from South Dakota. Franklin Yahn was of German ancestry and a Dakota druggist, while Mrs. Yahn was a sister to the elder Metcalfs, and their venture into Saskatchewan farming was influenced by the move a year previous, of the Metcalfs. The Yahn family consisted of three boys and a girl, the eldest boys Willard and George took up homesteads, while Milton attended local school, taught briefly and then studied dentistry in the U.S., being now engaged in his pro-

fession in the State of Washington. The one girl, Lois, attended school, then taught and eventually married a banker but died in B.C.

The Metcalfs, of English origin, were born in Ontario where their father was a carpenter and farmer, and he had worked at his trade around Barr and Iderton, close to my own home. The father and his family had migrated to the then new Dakota Territory when the family was young and these two sons Homer and Bert had married there and had their families before coming to Saskatchewan in 1906. The elder of the two brothers, Homer had six children and the oldest boys Harold and Don also took homesteads near Macrone. Homer's brother Herbert took up adjoining land, and in partnership with the Yahn boys operated a threshing outfit many years. Bert's boys were younger and did not farm on their own, partly due to the death of their father from pneumonia in 1927. Mrs. Bert Metcalf continued to farm a brief time but sold out and is still living in Saskatoon.



Some Early Pioneers

Left to right: Munroe Hall, Lily Lorentson, Joe Semans, H. A. Metcalf, Penn Julia, Mrs. H. A. Metcalf, Wm. Caloon, Mrs. Joe Semans and W. T. Hall.

In this same township were the J. C. Armstrong, John Murray, Alex. Murray, W. O. Wardell, George Parsons and John Hill families, all from Ontario. The Fred B. Harveys came from Manitoba, but all the Harveys originally came from Ontario.

There were also the following bachelors: Knut and Jake Risdahl, Eh Engleson and Otto Erickson who were of Scandinavian descent, and Bert, Percy and Ruhe Rogers, George McIntyre, Bert Paisley, Oswald Parker, Ernie Redden and Angus McKinnon, from Ontario. Alf Rogers

and wife were from the East. Charlie Creer was a Scottish bachelor. Jack Gordon and family were from the U.S. Bill Rygrook and wife were Dutch. Also there were Bill Cummings and Ernie Hutchinson and Isaac Kendall, a cousin of the other Kendalls.

Township 27, Range 9 was largely taken up by the following settlers. The Shorter and Retnell families were English, the Pattersons were from Scotland, while John Lowe and Philip Goumnia were from Poland by way of the U.S. and were Jewish. The Webster family came from the U.S. while the John Smith and Davis families were English. August Lammers and family were from Germany. The Harry Had Ruck, well Isaac Weston and the W. Titus families were all of English origin. The Stevenson family were from Quebec. Bill Tacke and wife, the Satchers, Hagermans and the Shepard families were all from Eastern Canada. Tom Campbell and family were Irish. J. W. Curran's were English. Bill Forbes, Canadian. Jack Jackson, English. Albert Allan Scotch, and the Mann family were from the U.S.

Township 28, Range 8, contained the country postoffice of Westhope on the N.E. of Section 11. Almost a third of this township lies north east of the South Saskatchewan River, the balance being taken up by the George Gibson family from Manitoba, the Harry and Gordon Coleman families from Ontario, Dick Hammond and wife and son Tom from England, the Barnes and Gardner families who moved from Regina, the George Crickshank family from Ontario, Ed Boughton and wife and mother from England, the Jim Harvey family, including Charlie the Postmaster. The Rev. John Perry family consisting of one girl, Annabel and several boys. Rev. Perry was a Presbyterian minister who held services at various places in the district. Two sons, Canada and Anand had an impediment business in Outlook a few years, but Canada later became Secretary-Treasurer of the L. M. of Fertile Valley when the office was at Bratton, and Anand became postmaster at Outlook. Anand died after a few years but his wife stayed on as postmistress until marrying again a few years ago. Ananda's son Joe is now a United Church Minister at Kerrobert Sask. Joe Perry, another son, had an interest in a butcher shop in Outlook but it burned in the bad fire of Easter Sunday, 1910. Another son Albert worked mostly on the home farm but had a livery barn at Marmora with the coming of the C.N.R. A fifth, son Ann is a minister in the U.S. while still another son, Jack, the youngest of the family, served in the First War, was badly wounded, and still suffers therefrom.

In this township also were Knut Farden, Sr. and his brother Ole Farden and family of three boys and six girls. The boys farmed in the district for some time but John and Albert are now deceased and Otto moved to a farm near Meota. The eldest girl married in the U.S. and another married Andrew Scadd, but they also died some years ago. Karl became a country school teacher but later taught at Outlook College and in the Western U.S. and represents an instructor in the Lutheran Seminary at Saskatoon. Caroline married a neighboring homesteader, Henry Cole. Martha married Peter Ahmans and they farmed for a time near her home. Peter joined the Army during the Second War being also a veteran of the First and is still serving at Dundurn. The youngest Farden daughter Max took up nursing and later married Oscar Torvik. Oscar died a few years ago but Max continues on the farm with her son Omar. She also has two girls married and in the district.

Besides Knut and Ole there was also the Pete Farden family, a cousin. Pete and his wife had a homestead on the River bank in Sec. 28,

and had at least three sons and two daughters. One girl married Matt Haraldstad and the other, Erling Torvik. The sons Knut, Charlie and Bert married and raised families in the district. Bert Fanden married a Norwegian girl Kari Ellingsen.

Then in this township there were the Andrew Sjovald and Stanley Harris families, and many bachelors including myself the McOnkeys, E. E. Adkins, Harold Martin, John Brackebel, Charlie Redden, Allan Armstrong, John Emerson, Louis Benson and Andrew Olson though the latter was a widower having lost his wife and also a daughter through sickness. Mrs. Matthews, a sister of Mrs. Jim Harvey Sr., came from down East with Penn Judd who was a friend of the Harveys. Mrs. Matthews and Penn both took homesteads but later moved to Outlook where they resided until they died. Penn was for a time a sort of handyman for the Town, he had a son Jimmie employed with the C.P.R.

Also in this township we had Louis Thomas and wife who came in somewhat later than the early settlers. They were French and both now deceased. When Louis died he left a very tidy sum of money to the Outlook Hospital.

Township 28, Range 9 included the following settlers. A. G. Sealy, a widower on the N.E. of 2 where he was postmaster of Bratton post-office almost three miles south of the present hamlet. His father and mother lived with him as well as two sisters Rose and Bessie, and his own children, two girls and a boy. He was overseas in the First War and on his return became district representative for the Soldier Settlement Board, serving at various posts in Saskatchewan until his death some years ago. His father took a homestead near Bratton and for a time owned a livery stable in the hamlet. The sister Bessie married Ernie Adkins and Rose married Charlie Harvey. The son Laurence became a United Church minister at present stationed at Kindersley, Sask. The Sealys were English.

The W. T. Hall family, also English, lived just south of Surlinton, Mr. Hall being prominent in the Grain Growers movement for years and also a Provincial Steam Engine Inspector. The eldest son Bill served in the Army during the First War and died recently at the West coast. The second son Harry took a homestead on twp. 27, Range 9 and was the first teacher of Bratton School. Harry's wife was also a school teacher and taught the Marmawalla School for a number of years. The younger son Bert became a roadworker, while the daughter married Percy Higgitt who operates a store at Anerly. Percy was for a time Councilor for Division 3.

Mert Morton had land in this township although he and his brother Dave lived just west of the Lane. Mert was very public spirited and interested in politics, he served as Wheat Pool delegate many years. Dave was chairman of a relief board set up by the Anderson government to review relief applications, during the early years of the depression. He later married a widow near Glenside and was for years postmaster there, until his death. The Mortons were from Ontario.

Dr. A. G. Hopkins was another English homesteader in this Twp., who also bought land and established his residence at the northwest end of ("Red Deer") Stocawell Lake, just across the valley from Surlinton. Dr. Hopkins has lived a very colorful life, holding veterinary positions with the Federal and Provincial governments, and for a time was editor of the Farmer's Advocate. Active in municipal affairs, he served as

reeve for a time. He has written numerous articles for newspapers and recently published a book on his life and farming experiences. He has married three times, his last wife being a sister of A. G. Sealy. He is presently living retired in Saskatoon.

There were three other Hopkins families. O. J. farmed west of Surbiton and was municipal councillor many years. Percy was also a councillor for Div. 3 and a farmer near Anerley. William lived north of Surbiton and farmed there. D. Hopkins is the only one still living.

Bill Latimer, Jack Barr and Ed Potter were from down East. William and Bob Short were English. Then there were Harry and Greg Dunlop, Arthur Lowe, Alf Gould, George Preston and his son George. The Prestons were Scotch. A. F. Beattie had a farm and also a blacksmith shop which he later had in Bratton and there raised a family. The S. Ralston family were from the U. S. of Norwegian stock. He was for a time weed inspector for the R. M. of Fertile Valley.

A. O. Gibson and his brother Louis farmed two sections of land close to Bratton, having moved from Manitoba but originally from Ontario. They were brothers of George, my close neighbor. A. O. raised pure bred cattle, winning many prizes at the larger fairs. He also was fond of good horses, which he raised and exhibited them quite successfully. A. O. is now retired and living in Saskatoon. Both brothers have passed on.

The A. W. James family were English as also were Frank Buell, Jack Salmon, Jack Sealy (brother of A. G.), Jack Wingrove and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Nicholson. Jack Sealy enlisted and was killed overseas during the First World War in 1916. Jack Salmon took typhoid fever during 1911 and died at Outlook.

There was also the Carr, Gilbert family, and Jimmie Cleveland and son Oscar who were from Ontario. Jimmie Cleveland and Oscar had lived near Saskatoon in the still earlier days.

The Rev. R. B. Deavis family lived on the west side of this township, he being a missionary minister of the Presbyterian Church. He held services from time to time throughout the district, as needed.

Just north of this township lives the Sam Ankerman family, among the earliest settlers, who while the country was being settled were always ready to accommodate tired travellers who came that way on the Hanley or Saskatoon trails when passed their house. Another pioneer who lived just north of the township line was Mr. Mulhern, an Englishman with whom I became very well acquainted during a trip from Hanley, in the fall of 1905. Although his oxen were hauling a big load of lumber he consented to let me ride with him. We had quite a time as there was a stray bull running at large at the time and it persisted in attacking our oxen. This animal had to be shot later when it chased a homesteader onto the roof of his shack.

South of Fertile Valley there of course is the R. M. of Coteau and a goodly number of settlers from there used to come to Westhope P.O., and later to Macdonic which continued to be the main trading centre for many years even after the railway pushed west and south-east. The Merwart and Bonitz families were Dutch, the Foxcrofts, English, the Antonsens, Scotch, the Vicker family Canadian, the Harbarts, American, the Delpartes, Belgian, the Heaths and Costes families, English, the Howells and MacDonalds were from down East, the Coopers and

Christianson families were American, the Tuomi and Marikkola families, Finnish, but from the U. S., the Bodrugs were from Austria, the Frederens were Norwegian. Dick Palfrey was from England and Bob Cassella was also English.

I will try and give a short biography of the families I came to know best during those early years.

The Fred B. Harvey family came in somewhat later than the Jim Harvey family and their land on the P₁₂ of 36-27-8 had previously been occupied by a Mr. Hogg who had abandoned it and left the district. Fred B. and Mrs. Harvey had a family of two sons and five daughters. The eldest son Harry had been a banker before coming to the district with the family to take up land. After some years of farming he returned to his banking profession in 1916, but came back to Marquette in 1925 to manage the land for Security Lumber Company. He died in 1947 and after a few years moved to Prince Albert but still owns and near the river east of Marquette. There is still on the old homestead at River a ridge where the Interprovincial Pipe Line crosses. The eldest girl Jessie married a farmer Mr. Stappe at Metchosin. Miss Grace taught school at Outlook for a time and was the first teacher there. She later married Mr. Shure, a railroad man. Peggy also taught school for a time and was employed at Outlook one year, she married Mr. McEwan an insurance man from Saskatoon. Kate stayed at home for some years but married a Mr. Hill and now lives in Saskatoon with a daughter home. The youngest girl Amy was a stenographer in Saskatoon but married a jeweller named Athinson and they now have a store at Port Arthur.

Jim Harvey Jr. lived at Westhope for a time after he married a nurse from down East. They lost their house by fire in 1900 then moved to Outlook where Mrs. Harvey was a nurse for Dr. Redden. Later they went to Moose Jaw during the First War. Jim joined the Army but has suffered since from rheumatism. They now reside in Saskatoon.

Fred Harvey Jr. farmed his land at Westhope for a time then moved to Marquette where he ran a harness and shoe repair shop. His wife died recently but Fred remains now retired.

Charlie Harvey was of course the storekeeper and postmaster at Westhope later farming near Bratton and after that was agent for the Singer Sewing Machine Company. He died many years ago but his wife and daughter live at Brandon.

The eldest daughter of Jim Harvey Sr. Avelice was a trained nurse and married a Mr. Moward a bookkeeper and lived in Hanky a time then at Westhope and later at Regina, or Moose Jaw. They had quite a large family. The youngest daughter Edith married John Cameron and they farmed some time before moving into Outlook where they still live. They have a family of three boys and three girls, the youngest girl now being in London, Ontario close to where my property is in the East. The Mowards are both deceased.

Homer and Mrs. Metcalf had a family of five boys and one girl Edith. She taught schools for some years then married Charlie Redden, a brother of Dr. Redden of Outlook. They farmed near Marquette but following the death of Ernie Redden, another brother they took over and operated Ernie's hardware business at Winstan. Charlie also passed on in the spring of 1935.

The eldest son of the Homer Metcalf family, Harold, married my sister Pearl who had come out from Ontario and was living with myself

and Brother Joe. They remained close to me on adjoining land and have acquired other holdings including the old Geo Gibson farm. The second son Don is also still on his farm near Macrose, but for some years has only tended his large garden and a variety of fruit trees. Paul is a fire ranger in the north country but also farms south-east of Loon Lake. During the pioneer days he was a steam fireman then engineer and also worked with elevator construction crews throughout Saskatchewan and Alberta. Ray has for many years been a foreman with the Daves Tree Expert Company and lives near Aaron, Ohio. Winfield (Bud) is credit manager for the Security Lumber Company, at Moose Jaw. Don served in the Army overseas during the First War, while Ray was in the Royal Flying Corps at the same time, Bud served in the R.C.A.F. over four years during the Second War.

Homer Metcalf was a very public spirited citizen, serving as school secretary, Reeve of the Municipality, active in the Grain Growers Association and Agricultural Society, and helped organize the Macrose Rural Telephone Company. He was finally a candidate for the new Progressive Party in the provincial election of 1921. He retired to Portland, Oregon during 1924 and lived there until his death in 1943. His wife had died some years previous.

George Gibson lived a little over a mile east of me and had married the eldest Kendall girl. They had a family of two boys and a girl. I worked considerably with George when we were both new settlers. Mrs. Gibson died while the settlement was still new and later George and the boys took up land near Big Liver where the eldest son Tommie died from a gunshot wound in his leg. George himself died soon after. His daughter Mary married Bob Murray, son of Oliver Murray and they farm west of Bratton.

The John Hill family came from near Ottawa, being a widower with a family of four sons and four daughters. The eldest son Bob was one of the first settlers in the district, a carpenter and also a farmer, and is now retired in Macrose. Hill lives at Telford with the younger sister Lorna and brother Jim. Bill has always been a farmer and at one time he and George Gibson operated a threshing machine. He is also a veteran of the First War. Jack was also a farmer but died some years ago while comparatively young. Maggie, the eldest daughter lives at Edmonton, while Grace married Fred Harvey Jr. and was for many seasons in charge of my threshing cook-car. She also kept house for me on the farm while Fred assisted with farm work and in the cook-car. Minnie married a policeman at Winnipeg and died recently. Mr. Hill, Sr., lived to be a very old man, and when about 100 years of age the neighbors held a party in his honor, with a presentation of an arm chair which he enjoyed until his passing at the age of 104.

The Lorentsons were among our earliest settlers and there was a family of three boys and five girls. Lyle, the eldest, lives in Saskatoon. Bill still works the home farm but spends the winters with Lyle. Albert took a homestead near the home farm but some years ago moved to Edmonton. Hazel is a teacher and lives in Saskatoon while Edith works in an Ottawa office. Henry, the youngest son died of pneumonia in 1918, and one daughter, Evelyn died of polio in 1920. Genevieve married a Mr. Dyck and they reside in Saskatoon, having a grown family. The parents passed on some years ago.

The Williams family resided south-east of Macrose. Mr. Williams, Sr., being a good farmer and gardener, was a Justice of the Peace and

also municipal weed inspector at one time. His son Jim Jr., also farmed and concentrated his efforts and interests therein. His brother Harry, however, farmed and also was a public figure in all agricultural matters. He was on the staff of the Dominion Experimental Farm at Scott for a time. Went back on several occasions to assist them. was Secretary, Treasurer of the Agricultural Improvement Association and worked hard to get grass seed and fruit trees distributed among the farmers of the district. He was also very active on the board of the Agricultural Society and won many prizes showing corn and fruits at local and larger fairs, as well as winning many ribbons with his Holstein Cattle. Harry is now the only surviving member of this early family.

Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Murray had a family of two sons, Douglas and Sandy, and three daughters, Elizabeth, Grace and Janet. Douglas is married and now farming near St. Thomas, Ont. During the last war he was in the R. C. A. F. and following his discharge took a course at the Toronto Bible School. Sandy lives in Macrose and farms the old home place. He is a graduate of the Agricultural College at Saskatoon, and the leader of the Macrose Cad Club. Elizabeth lives in Macrose with Sandy and her mother since the passing of her father, Alex., in 1954. Grace married John Tracy from Kenaston where they have a farm. Janet married a farmer at Quill Lake where she was teaching. Grace was also a teacher while Janet and Elizabeth were in the Armed Services during the war.

The John Murray family consisted of two girls and eight boys, but Mr. Murray and six of his sons have now passed on. Oliver, the eldest, died this year in Outlook where he had operated a machine. Brown and Percy were killed in action during the First War. Cardner died from the effects of surgery. Elmer died during the Flu epidemic of 1918. He ward worked the home farm with his mother but died suddenly a few years ago. Carlton now lives on the home place and his mother is with a daughter Janet at Prince Albert, who is a school teacher. The eldest daughter Eva married Oswald Parker, farmer and well digger. He dug wells for farmers by means of pick and shovel only, in this way making them larger in diameter and assuring the owner of a larger reservoir and supply. He dug many wells throughout the district, many being 100 feet or more in depth. While still a very young man, and only a short time after his marriage, he was caught in a cave-in while digging for Harry Britnell and the frantic efforts of many men failed to save him. Mrs. Parker with her small daughter Dorothy kept house for my brother and me for two summers. At present they reside at Prince Albert where the daughter is married.

Carlton Murray married Dora Prentice and they have a large family. Ray Murray used to farm but of later years lives at Outlook. His wife was Maudie Cruckshank, and they had two children a boy and a girl.

One of my closest neighbors was W. O. Wardell, whose wife was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Parsons who lived on adjoining land. The Wardells had a daughter Eva who married a Mr. Hall, presently a grain buyer for Quaker Oats Milling Company at Saskatoon. The son Harold Wardell, born on the homestead, ran a store at Moose Jaw for a time but is now in California. Mr. and Mrs. Wardell and the Parsons all passed on some years ago.

The George Cruckshank family consisted of three girls and five boys, the eldest girl Bess worked in an office at Outlook but died quite

young; the second girl lived in Hanley and Outlook before marrying Albert Perry, and they have lived some years at Provost, Alberta. Their son Pete is a fine ball player and currier, and he was a member of the rink which won the Dominion Championship of 1954. Maud married Ray Murray, but died a few years ago. The eldest son William, farms near Bratton. He married a school teacher and has two sons and two daughters. Bill is a member of the Board of the Outlook Larger School Unit, and a director of the Co-Operative Implements. Mrs. Cruickshank is very active in the Women's Institute, and both are willing Community workers. The second son, Wesley, was in the First War and lost a leg from wounds, in spite of his handicap he was variously employed for some years, but died suddenly in Saskatoon. Jack Cruickshank is also a veteran, was badly wounded, but gradually recovered and is working for the city of Saskatoon. He has a piece of land south of the city where he lives with his wife and family. Angus, a brother farms in Alberta, while another brother, Russell, lost his life in an accident about a year ago. The parents have both passed on.

As mentioned, the Wm. Kendall family consisted of four girls and four boys. Sam, the eldest, moved into the district with his family and farmed until his death. His widow and all the children are now in B.C. William, Jr. became a very successful farmer. He served as Councillor for Division One, and for many years on the Rural Telephone Company Board. His wife came from England as a bride in 1910 and they have worked diligently for the Grain Growers and Agricultural Society. Jack Kendall was a successful farmer during his early years but suffered from the depression and lost his estate about the same time. Both he and his wife have passed on but their four children remain in the district and have all married. Albert Kendall married but lost his wife; he still lives on his original homestead land. As mentioned the oldest girl Sarah married George Gibson, the second girl became Mrs. Wm. McQuarrie, the third, Clara, married Jack Allan, Macrae hardware merchant, the youngest girl Maggie married Charlie Mannens who emigrated from Belgium and worked with Maggie's brother Jack for a time. They still farm just south of Macrae. The elder Kendalls died many years ago.

CHAPTER 5

MY EXPERIENCES AT WESTHOPE

As mentioned previously, by late in 1907 there was a store and postoffice at Westhope, and as I had a recommendation for patent for my homestead by February 1908 and would not have to stay right on my land, I took a small interest in the Westhope store, along with C. H. Harvey, and did a lot of hauling of goods for the store, from Hanley.

The Harveys kept a rowboat at the river, and on fairly numerous occasions we hauled goods to the east side of the river opposite Westhope and then took the stuff across by boat. If the Rudy Ferry was operating satisfactorily we of course made the somewhat longer trip by that route so as to make a safer crossing and bring a larger load, as the rowboat was only for emergency use.



Westhope Store and Post Office in 1908

W. A. Gibson, Penn Judd, C. H. Harvey, and Frank Buel

There seemed to be many things which stopped the ferry for at least a few days at a time. Perhaps the water became too low so that sand bars blocked the way and the ferry had to be moved up or down stream. At other times the water was too high, spoiling the approaches or otherwise becoming dangerous. During 1908 the water rose an extreme 20 feet above normal and the ferry could not operate for some time. The current was very strong, especially in the centre of the river and there was a continuous stream of rubbish floating down that swiftest main channel. This endless ribbon of refuse included all kinds of trees, lumber, parts of bridges and houses, dead animals, etc. I had gone to Hanley for goods as usual and could not get back for many days. Putting the ferry out in the river was out of the question, and Hughie Gibson, who operated it then, could not even cross by boat for some days.

Then of course the ferry was often stopped by ice floes during both spring and fall. During spring break-ups the start of ferry operation was sometimes delayed by ice jams.

During the winter the river was bridged by natural ice and a crossing could be made most anywhere. But it was best to follow a traveled track which you could depend on as being reasonably safe. To cross anywhere else there was some danger of thin ice or open spots caused by swift-running channels. The open spots were commonly called "air holes" as it was thought they permitted escape of air trapped under the ice.

Returning to the hauling of store goods, I did a lot of this using a team of buckskin bronchos owned by Charlie Harvey. I quite often left for Hanley in the evening and travelled by night since it was easier on the horses during warm weather and would reach Hanley early in the morning. Then while the horses were feeding and resting I attended business matters and loaded the supplies during regular hours and would thus be ready for the return trip the following day.

The bronchos became so accustomed to the road and these trips that they went along with very little driving and I could get some sleep while travelling especially when going toward Hanley. They were a fine team for the road but were sometimes balky. I remember one time when making one of these trips by way of Rudy when it was very hard on the team getting through the sand on the sandbars on the river and when I got part way up the hill on the east side they just stopped and refused to even lighten the traces. I did everything I could think of to get them started again, but it was of no use. I had to take them off the wagon and go up to Ole Ness's place for the night, leaving the wagon where it was. Next morning I hitched up and drove away with no trouble at all.

When travelling to Hanley in those years we often stopped as did many others at the farm of Sam Burgess which served as a stopping place about half way between the river and Hanley. There used to be a yardful of wagons there most every night, and also some through the day. Mr. Burgess is said to have lived to be a very old man and died back in Nova Scotia not long ago.

While we were running this store and postoffice at Westhope the settlers for miles around came for their mail and groceries and often stayed awhile to rest and feed their horses and have a meal or two with us. Mr. L. F. Hutton, who was in the Real Estate business in Duluth many years, but who now lives in H.C., once asked me before he left if I recalled the time he and a party of business men from across the line, wintered at our store. He said they had been on a long journey south and west of Westhope and had arrived here as far as the store very tired and hungry. We had taken them in, fed their horses, prepared supper for the party and gave them what information we could about the country. Mr. Hutton often spent the winter in California and it seems they had a sort of saloon club where he stayed. It was a rule or custom that each member had to give a talk or read a paper on certain nights as entertainment. He said that when his turn came he told them about this trip, just mentioned.

The mail route from Hanley to Westhope was changed about this time (Nov 1908), so Mr. Gray only brought the mail as far as Rudy, and we undertook to bring it from there to Westhope. I suppose it was

on account of Charlie Harvey being postmaster that I took the contract to carry the mail and as usual I used the Harvey horses and wagon, and whenever I was not available one of the Harveys usually made the trip for me. Carrying the mail when the river crossing was bad was not an easy undertaking and it was also unpleasant when the weather was very cold or stormy.

I had some very interesting experiences while carrying the mail. At different times when the ferry was not operating we used to bring the mail over in Harvey's boat. Many times there would be ice in the river and at such times we rowed across the open water until reaching the ice. Then we had to test the ice to make sure it was safe, then pull the boat over on the ice until coming to open water again, and so on until reaching the other shore. On such trips I nearly always had someone with me as it seemed someone was always wanting to go somewhere. I remember one dark night when there was such ice in the river and Sam Kendall was along. I thought Sam was very careless about testing the ice and was very much worried lest there be an accident and he would get drowned. If the water was newly frozen and a long pole was taken along I found that by keeping my weight on the pole it was easy to cross even very thin ice.

During this time we made many trips across the river with the boat for people traveling back and forth. A lumberer Sam McTaggart lived on the east bank and as the land there was high it was arranged so that people wanting to cross would put a flag up and we then went over to get them. One fall going over one day when Iver Kyle wanted to bring over some supplies with which to get started up on his homestead. Among other things he had a wooden beam breaking plow which we loaded into the boat along with his other goods. When we reached the west bank, before anyone could offer help, Iver picked up this plow and swung it up on his shoulder as though it were just a cordwood stick. This display of strength rather amazed me and I have often thought since of the courage and determination of some of these early settlers in handling the problems of the times.

Another day we saw the flag up and went over to see what was wanted. A cowboy from Alberta was there wanting us to take him and his horse across. We took everything into the boat except the horse, which we led behind us a safer. When we reached the very deep water and the horse had to swim only part of its head was above water and since he was striking furiously with his front feet I had to make sure I kept the boat well ahead so he wouldn't sink us. However we made out all right and on getting across, and waiting for the horse to dry off some the fellow saddled up again and headed for Alberta.

During 1897 when my neighbor Dick Hammond died we took the casket across the river with this boat. (The reader will need to bear in mind that the river here was nearly one-half mile wide.) In addition to Dick's remains our load also included his wife and son Tom, two Harveys and myself. The boat was not a very large one and it sank so low in the water we had to be very careful to distribute the weight evenly. The day was nice and calm and we had no trouble. Mr. Hammond's remains were taken in team from the east bank, for interment at Hanley.

When the C.P.R. reached Oatman in the fall of 1908, we also drew mail for this new town for a time, but this was soon changed when mail service was supplied by train. Then Percy Hopkins drew mail from Outlook to Anerley by way of Westhope and Bratton, but this again

was changed by 1912 following the arrival of the C N R at Macrome in the fall of 1911.

Mrs James Harvey, Sr died during June 1908. Interment was made in the Lutheran Church Cemetery near Rudy, and it was a long trip for the mourners and friends the day of the funeral as there were no motor cars then. The Rev John Ferry conducted the service.

There was another boat trip I well remember, during 1908 when the ferry was not operating for some reason, and Harry Coleman was with me. There was a stiff wind blowing against the current of the river that day and by the time we arrived at the boat the wind seemed to be even stronger than before. I had been warned about going out on such trips when there were whitecaps on the waves but we were all ready to go and I thought we would take the chance. By the time we were out in the deep portion of the water the boat began dropping down into the trough between waves so I could not see anything but water all around and considerably above our heads. I really became scared but did not speak to Harry for fear he might become alarmed and let go of the rudder which was holding the boat steady. As it was we both kept our thoughts to ourselves while Harry managed to keep the boat headed into the waves, and we were soon across, but by then I was well aware why it was best to stay off the river during such days.

Even before the steel reached Outlook it was a busy place. Many of the people who intended starting business places there hauled their lumber from Hanley. Among the very first, strangely enough, was Dr Redden, and his office is said to have been the first building erected on the townsite. Later on it would seem odd for a doctor to be one of the first in a new town, but in those days he was assured of a good practice among the settlers in a wide area to the west and south, and Outlook was then to be the end of steel for at least a few years until further settlement warranted the building of an expensive bridge and extension of the line. We were all very pleased to see Dr Redden arrive, so near to us.



Taken at Outlook
Probably in 1909

Tweeten and Stayner
Store and C P R Water
Tank in background

During this rush at Outlook, before the steel came, I saw Mr McCartney on the Hanley trail hauling big loads of lumber with one horse hitched to a wagon. He was an energetic and persistent fellow. He drew that lumber for a store which he had in operation within a short time.

With the arrival of the railway at Outlook we all felt more optimistic as we had hardly expected the steel to come so close. Those trips to Hanley had been pretty long, and some of us had on occasions, hauled grain about eighty miles to Saskatoon. But we still had the drawback of having to cross the river.

During 1909 a ferry service was put into operation at Outlook, and not long after, the Rudy Ferry was discontinued.

As to our social life those days, we early settlers often gathered at the river during the summer Sundays and on other occasions, to fish, pick berries or just visit. Mrs. Matthews was one of the most ardent anglers and caught many fish. The variety mostly caught was the goldeye, but there were a few suckers and an occasional sturgeon. A nuisance to all fishermen were the numerous small chubs which were too small and bony to bother pulling from the water.

The married people with families were very hospitable and often invited the bachelors over for a good meal.

One day when some of us were along the river bank looking for berries and otherwise amusing ourselves, we were accompanied by Charlie Harvey and George Ellson an Englishman who was then working for Charlie but later farmed in the district. George noticed some strange but attractive looking berries while walking through the bush and had eaten some of them. Then, as there was talk about some of the wild berries likely to be poisonous George became alarmed and wondered if the ones he had eaten might make him sick or worse, dangerously poison him. Whereon Charlie assured him that if he became stricken all the rest of us would soon know.

I suppose most pioneers at one time or another saw some Indians occasionally, while they still retained most of their old-time dress and modes of living. When I was coming through Regina on the way to my homestead, the spring of 1905, the place was full of Indians who came there once or twice a year for Treaty money or government supplies. They had their ponies, wagons and tents, and were dressed in clothes of fancy colours, and bright blankets that made everything look very smart. It was a new and interesting sight for me, to see so many Indians at one time.

On another occasion, in the ravine south of present Macrome, which runs through the Hoy Cutha land, I met an Indian who rather startled me. In those days a settler gathered up his fuel wood where it was closest and easiest to get and I was in this ravine getting out a load. While thus engaged I heard some brush crack and on looking up saw this Indian very close riding a pony and with a rifle in his hand. He rode right by without speaking and I wondered just what he might do, no one seemed to have any trouble with the Indians but a person couldn't help wondering how much they might resent all these settlers. Soon I heard a rifle shot, and then in a few minutes he came back with a deer across the neck of his pony. When I finished getting my load of wood and drove out of the ravine there at the mouth of it was the Indian and his camp which included some squaws and papooses. The women were busy getting a meal ready and making baskets and clothing. By then the Indian wanted to sell some of the venison he had just brought back. Bill and Albert Lorentson were also there, talking to him. They had been out looking for deer that morning, starting up at the top end of the ravine and in that way had driven the deer ahead of them into the path of the Indian.

Game hunting was always very good in many parts of the district, and the Harveys were fond of that sport and the game it provided. At first there were not many grain fields for them to feed on as they came down from the north each fall in great flocks. But as the fields

became larger and more numerous the geese were more attracted and hunting improved. They were very tame at first and a person could drive right by a flock and they took little notice. However after the hunters did so much shooting they became very wild indeed, spending the nights on sandbars in the river and coming out to feed on the fields early in the morning. I was never much of a shot myself but when decoys were set up and a person kept himself out of sight in a pit or under a stack, the geese came so thick you could hardly miss them.

I used to go with the Harvess after deer occasionally. We could nearly always get on a track over on the east side of the river or in the sandhills between Westhope and Outlook. If there was a little fresh snow the tracking was easy. One day we were following a fresh track a few miles south of Outlook when all at once bullets came crashing through the scrubby trees around us. We thought we were being shot at and dived for cover. After waiting awhile and hearing no more shots we ventured out and soon came to the carcass of the deer we had been following. Charley's brother Jim had come from Outlook with another hunter and had intercepted our deer and had a fairly easy shot. They had gone for their team and wagon but soon returned, so we helped them load up their game and saw them off.

Another incident I well remember was one winter night when Charlie and I were driving home from Ole Farlen's place. There was plenty of snow and it was very cold, and as we drove along we saw a wolf near the trail. Charlie said, 'Let's see if we can get close enough to shoot it with the shotgun' as that was the only firearm we had with us. He kept driving the horses and sleigh closer to the wolf by angling toward it, and we were soon within range. The wolf had kept watching us but didn't run away, possibly because it was so cold, so that was a fatal night for that chicken thief.

There were also a lot of prairie chickens around during the early years, and the sandhills was the place to see many of them. During the winter of 1911 my brother Joe, who had also come west to farm, and Tommy Hammond were with me one day driving through the sandhills from Westhope to Outlook. That morning the chickens were all up sitting in the trees to sun themselves and the place seemed alive with them. During the spring and early summer they were numerous in the sage flats just west of Westhope, where, on a quiet morning they could be heard drumming for miles, and you could drive right past them as they performed.

Then of course there were lots of wild ducks, and a favorite place for hunting those was at some sloughs near Walter Coates' land south of Macrone, although there were plenty of ducks at any large slough or lake.

The main trail between Westhope and Outlook used to run about straight north and south during the winter when the river was frozen, and in this way the trail was through the sandhills on the north and east side of the river. These hills extended from the river crossing just north of Westhope over a distance of about five miles to just south of Outlook. One evening as I was driving north in this area, it became quite dark and as I came to a small clearing in the hills I noticed a herd of deer run away ahead of me. Then I glanced down beside the cutter and there was a big wolf within a few feet of the trail so intent on watching the deer that he took no notice of me at all. If I had not been afraid of the horses bolting I could have struck him with my whip.

I felt sure there were other wolves there in the long grass and brush, and that they were almost ready to pounce on those deer if I had not come along just then. I talked with a settler a few years later who was living in those times and he said the wolves frequently chased the deer, without much success but if the snow was deep they often managed to run down a young deer or one that was weakened through some ailment.

The wolves used to make quite a noise at night. One would start to howl then another would answer from a different direction and then perhaps another and they would keep this up for a long time.

Sometimes Indians or lions would steal up along the river and on many nights they would cry sounding much like a child in distress. One evening some people were at my house on the farm and were just going out the door when we plainly heard a terrifying cry as if someone was caught beneath a wagon or load of some kind. From the direction of this cry we decided someone had tipped over with a load of some sort where the trail crossed a ravine about one and a half miles north. We hurried into our car and drove up there and looked all around but could see nothing. A day or two later a neighbor who lived up that way told us there was a dead horse in his field and that some animal had dragged about a quarter of the horse nearly half way across his field. We were then quite sure I must have seen a strange lion we had heard that night and the neighbor Arthur Sack thought so too as he had noticed the big tracks made by the animal in the field.

Having no sure early data before there were fences, telephone lines or graded roads to follow we had to be careful not to get caught out in a blizzard. I was fairly lucky and never really became lost for very long, usually I was driving horses and they would take me home. One night, though when driving the Rev. John Berry from Outlook to his farm I had quite a lot of trouble. The wind got up and the horses not heading for home would not stay on the road. Many times we lost the trail and I would have to stop and let Mr. Berry hold the reins while I got out and looked for the road. Everything looked the same and there were no stars or anything to guide us. The only way I could tell where the trail was was to tramp around until I could feel the hard road under my feet. But finally we arrived at our destination with no harm done.

Don Metcalf tells about an experience he had one time in a blizzard. He had been over across the river working out during late fall and was drawing grain to Reservoir for one of the lumbercuds. Mr. Lumsrud had left Reservoir ahead of him and in the time Don started back and was well on his way a terrible blizzard came up. He could not see anything for the time span and together with the very strong wind it was even difficult to breathe. He was unable to guide the team and had to just let them go their own way but finally realized they had arrived in the lumbercud yard. He was very thankful he had arrived safely as it had become terribly cold. These storms sometimes came up so quickly it was not possible to tell if one was on the way when planning to go anywhere.

On May 17th 1909 we had an earthquake. It was such an unusual occurrence on the prairies that many people were quite confused right at the time and wondered if their houses had actually swayed or whether they had been momentarily giddy. But as they noted pictures shaken on the wall remembered the rattle of dishes, and found pendulum

clocks stopped, they realized what had happened. Harry Coleman lived in a sod shack near the river bank on his homestead, and like many others reported his shack trembled in a very noticeable manner and his dishes in an open cupboard moved around considerably.

In June, 1908, a steamboat from Medicine Hat made a trip down the river. It was the "City of Medicine Hat" under Captain H. H. Ross who was also owner, and as it passed by our district it kept blowing its siren all along the way, and it was quite a fine sight indeed. The boat ran into difficulty at Saskatoon, although, passing under the railway bridge all right, it crashed into a pier of the traffic bridge and sank, forcing the engineer and fireman to swim for their lives. This accident was on June 8th.

During the early days we had some extreme thunder and lightning storms, and during one of the worst we received quite a scare down near the river. Jim Harvey's house was about 300 yards from



My brother Wilfred, who came from Sackville, N.B. to visit me in 1909.

the store and at the height of the storm lightning struck a clothesline wire that was fastened to the corner of the house, while Jim and his wife were in it. Some dogs were sleeping under the house and one of them was killed. My dog, or one that I was looking after for Mrs. Hammond, was there and disappeared. We could find no trace of him, but later when I went over to my homestead he was there. No real damage was done to the house then, but it burned down later, in 1908, from an overheated stove.

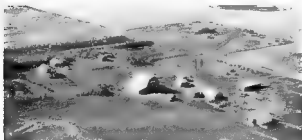
During 1909 my eldest brother Wilfred, a University professor, came out from the East to pay me a visit. He was very fond of swimming and we spent as much time as I could spare down around the river and its banks. The crops were good that year and my brother was favorably impressed as to what our land could produce.

We always had to be on the lookout for fire when the summer grass became dry and brown. One day soon after the mail carrier had left for Rudy, Jim Harvey noticed a fire starting up along the trail. He grabbed an old bucket and called to the rest of us who happened to be near. We fought the fire until it was put out but not before it had burned a lot of grass and left a piece of black ground. The mail man must have tossed away a cigarette into the grass.

As to sports the early settlers didn't forget them, and in addition to athletic contests at every little gathering and picnic, there were occasions when larger crowds attended both baseball and football games, with teams from different districts. One 24th of May a crowd of young people from the west side of the river gathered at the riverbank just east of Westhope quite early in the morning. That day there was a picnic at Garden Valley which was the name of the district around where Oul-

look is now, and there was to be a football game between the Westhope and Garden Valley teams. We were rowing the Westhope people across by boat to Sam McTaggart's and the Garden Valley people had sent teams down to pick us up. One of the fellows driving a team was Denny Johnson who farmed with his father over on that east side. He loaded a dozen or more into his wagon box and started off at a pretty fast pace, while some more of us came along in another conveyance, behind. We had not gone far when we noticed a nut or "burr" from the end of a wagon axle, beside the trail, and we felt sure it must have come off Denny's wagon. So then began an exciting chase to catch up to him if possible, before he lost a wheel, and perhaps injured a picnicker by spilling his load. We had a hard time overtaking Denny as he was a fast driver and as we drew close, sure enough we could see the right hind wheel moving in and out on the axle and we expected it to come off any minute. However we finally came close enough to get them stopped before any damage was done put on and tightened the burr, and we were again on our way. The old prairie trail being worn deep, had kept the wheel on, if the wagon had been out of the ruts at all there certainly would have been a spill.

This same Denny Johnson later became a big farmer over on the west side of the river between Bratton and Conquest having over 1800 acres of wheat in 1961. The siding and C.N.R. watertank of Denny being on his land, and named after him. Although still owning the land, he is now retired and living in B.C.



The Farm Home of Mr and Mrs. Lore Ingell
 Their son and his wife Maryjorie and family now live here

CHAPTER 6

PIONEER HARDSHIPS

Pioneers the world over and through the ages, have always experienced adversities, hardships, disaster and actual danger. Although we early pioneer farmers of Saskatchewan, and particularly of this area are not noted as having battled savages or very dangerous beasts, or having braved the hazards of still earlier fur trade days, there were still many inconveniences, mishaps and unpleasant experiences, as the following events and incidents will show.

During the fall of 1907 when most of us were still comparative newcomers, we had a very bad prairie fire which swept over a large portion of the district, burned a number of buildings, large quantities of grain and plenty of hay stacks. Most everyone was out fighting fire that disastrous day with every wet lag, broom or other available device, including horses and plows. The fire traveled so fast over the dry prairie fanned by the wind, and generated so much extra force of its own, that it jumped almost any fire-guard unless one had time to back-fire. With a following front of flame and smoke, often to a height of thirty to fifty feet its incredible speed and heat enabled it to also flash across such natural obstacles as broad sloughs and large ravines. I tried desperately to save some hay stacks in the flat between my land and Westhope, but without success.

Mrs. Charlie Mannens (the younger daughter of Wm. Kendall, Sr.) recently related the real battle they had that day. They had intended baking bread that forenoon but before it was ready for the oven the whole family had to rush out to fight the oncoming fire. All day they battled the flames but still lost most of their crops, feed and fuel wood, while barely managing to save their buildings. These would likely have gone as well only a neighbor, Alf Rogers came along to help them. Meanwhile the bread dough had continued to rise and when they finally came into the house that night, it was 'all over the place'. They of course had nothing to eat all day.

The destruction of crops and feed was so widespread the settlers petitioned the Government to start building a road straight across the Big Ravine on the road to the Rudy Ferry, as a relief project. This road construction was between Sections 31 and 32 in 28-8 and was organized so all the settlers would have a chance to work on it, thus earning some money. George Sealy was put in charge, but the work started so late that very little was accomplished before winter set in, and the job was not completed. Much time and money has been spent on the road through that deep ravine during recent years, but it is still far from finished.

Doctors were a long way off during those early years. I remember Dr. MacNeil from Hanley being called to visit the sick in the neighborhood three times during 1907-8. In June 1907 Dick Hammond took very sick, and Albert Ferry rode a horse to Hanley for Dr. MacNeil. Although he came as soon as possible he was unable to save Dick's life. Then during the winter of 1907-8 Mrs. Jim Harvey Sr. was very sick and I was sent for the doctor as I was staying at the Harveys. I drove their buckskin team to Hanley and brought out Dr. MacNeil the next day, with a livery team owned by Gibson and Fernald who ran a livery stable there at the time. Mrs. Harvey's daughter Ventrice was living in Hanley then, and came out with us, even though the weather was very cold.

the snow deep on the trail and the going was pretty slow and disagreeable. We reached Weatherup alright but the trip was very hard on the horses as they had been urged over the miles to try and satisfy the Doctor's haste. He stayed overnight with the Harveys and I took him back the next day. One other trip I know of was made by the Doctor during the summer of 1908 when Douglas Murray was born.

Dr. MacNeil was later elected to the Legislature at Regina, and from there he was appointed Superintendent of the Mental Hospital at Battleford, a position he held many years.

On March 27th, Easter Sunday, 1910 Outlook had a very disastrous fire when the entire block of buildings on the north side of Saskatchewan Avenue between Franklin and Selkirk Streets was destroyed. The fire started during the afternoon from some undetermined cause in the butcher shop operated by Joe Ferry and Sam Ankerman. As the town was new and lacking in fire fighting equipment the flames were soon out of control and in five o'clock all buildings were in ruins. This was a bad blow to Outlook which was our nearest trading centre at the time.

On July 9th, 1915 a tragic drowning accident occurred at the Outlook ferry. For many years before the traffic bridge was built there was a plank roadway leading from the lower edge of the east riverbank out across a broad sand bar and the ferry operated between the west end of the plank affair and the west bank of the river. When the river was high it ran over the west end of the plank roadway and it was at such a time that a carload of people in attempting to drive onto the ferry, missed it in some manner with the result the car dived into deep water and all were drowned. The ferrymen and others were unable to give any immediate help owing to the swirling fast-flowing current at this narrowed point in the river.

Having to rely on the ferry to cross the river was an inconvenience at the best of times, owing to much waiting in line during low water the service was much slower and limited. There were times each spring and fall when there was no service at all owing to the break up and freeze up of the river and winter crossing of the ice was always somewhat hazardous. There was always an agitation for a traffic bridge but it was many years before it became a reality. During the early years of the depression the Government carried out some of the preparatory work such as cutting down the banks on either side of the river as a relief measure and finally let the contracts for construction. By July 1st, 1926 it was possible to cross on the attractive new bridge, but the official opening was not until the 29th of that month. Needless to say there was great rejoicing when the days of the ferry came to an end, even though it had served the pioneers quite faithfully.

About 1920 the grasshopper menace made its appearance and our first major setback was serious enough to cause general worry. Stations were set up where poison bait was prepared and distributed so the farmers could take it out and spread it around the areas where the insects were doing damage. At first the bait was made by mixing Paris green or arsenic with sand and flour and molasses. I well remember what a job it was to look after these mixing stations as I was Counsellor for Division 1 at the time.

It would surprise anyone to see how quickly these pests cleared off a field of grain if they started when the crops were a few inches high.

But if the grass escaped until it was in the shot-blade, or headed, the hoppers mostly worked in from the edge of the fields and then we spread the bait along those edges, throwing it in among the pests. We used to wonder if our work was doing any good as there always seemed to be so many of them left. One of my neighbors remarked one day "It looks as if they are here for good," and I really thought so myself. But by 1923, Nature took a hand in the matter by bringing plentiful rains, and the hoppers disappeared, enabling us to harvest a bumper crop that year. We also had trouble with hoppers in the early thirties, but there was not another serious outbreak until the late 1940's and by this time we were much better equipped. There was improved machinery for mixing baits, also a new poison named Aldrin, which was much more effective than the old kinds. Aldrin was used as a spray and when the young hoppers merely touched it, that was the end of them. By 1951 another wet season and these improved controls, again brought relief from such plagues.

When the hoppers were really bad they were so thick you couldn't walk without stepping on them, but even that didn't seem to hurt them. It was like tramping on a coal spring. They made feed for poultry but were so plentiful the chickens became tired of them, and anyway, such a diet produced poor eggs.

The Macrorie and Bratton districts have also had their full share of drought. In the dry year of 1914 we had a very poor crop from lack of moisture, and 1919 was very dry and hot. But the prolonged drought of 1930 to 1941 was the worst, during which only the years 1935 and 1939 produced a paying crop. In both 1931 and 1937 there was not enough feed from the stunted growth, for livestock and we had to go outside the district for fodder. During 1934 we organized a gang and cut some very poor hay at the Goose Lake slough near Tessier. It was a big undertaking to send outfits up there to cut and bale the hay, and load it onto cars for shipment to Macrorie. However the Provincial Government paid the freight and also arranged for relief feed grain. In fact we received relief oats during different years of the drought.

In 1937 we had almost a complete failure and the Federal Government bought most of our surplus stock at a very low figure and shipped them out of the district. However we were allowed to keep so many, and of course our horses, needed to work the land. The drought was so widespread that year there was no fodder in quantity anywhere in Saskatchewan as far as we could learn, but in the north country there were some fair grain crops reported, and we thought we could locate something even if it was only straw.

So some of us farmers travelled north to try and locate some hay or oat straw. A. T. Murray, Bob Graham, Harold Metcalf and myself left one morning in Harold's Model T Ford car. The first night we stayed at Watson and put up in a barn just outside of town where a number of others, also looking for feed, were staying. We were unable to get to sleep very early as there were a couple of farmers that were also looking for feed arguing about something and neither would give in. We spent the next day looking over the country north of Watson but were unable to locate feed of any kind.

We next travelled east from Naicam reaching Archerhill and were told there we might get some oat straw over near Kelvington, to the southeast. I will not forget the night we spent near Archerhill. We had

also heard there was feed for sale at Algrove, the first town north, so we started for there first. On arriving at the edge of some muskeg extending between these towns we decided not to tackle the road in the approaching darkness and a threatening rain storm. So we stopped at a nearly empty school barn some distance west of Algrove, made our bed in one of the stalls, and were ready for a good night's rest before the rain started. In spite of the cold and dampness that came with the storm, the sound of rain was welcome as we had not forgotten our longing for it all summer. But adding to our discomfort we were disturbed several times during the night when rats or something similar crawled over our bed. However morning seemed to come soon, the rain had stopped, and we soon set out again for Algrove.

Much of the road was a corduroy affair over muskegs, the logs being laid close together crosswise of the road and it was very rough bouncing over these with Harold's Ford. If you got off the corduroy you would go down out of sight. The country up that way is covered with large bluffs of timber and back in the woods a man had a portable saw-mill and also a machine for making shingles. However we were unable to find anyone with any quantity of feed for sale so we went back to Archerwall for the night and went on to Kelvington next day. On our way from Archerwall to Kelvington we drove through an Indian reserve and tried to buy hay from Mr. Gilchrist the Indian Agent but they had not yet put up their feed and did not know if they had enough for themselves. We found many Indians quite anxious to give us information if we would give them a ride in the car but Mr. Gilchrist advised us we should not take much notice of them as some were very unreliable. We visited several farmers who had cut straw, so we started home but on the way stopped at Fourm Lake for a nice visit with Harold's brother Bud and his wife, then living there.

When we arrived back at Macrorie we reported what we had found and a few days later Len, Ingh, Douglas Murray, Howard Murray, Dick Jensen and I went back to Kelvington to make further arrangements for baling and shipping the straw.

While in Kelvington we met some settlers who had recently moved up to the north country from southern Saskatchewan, and they understood our plight and in talking to them it made us almost wish that we had moved up there years ago. One farmer there the Reeve of a municipality had taken a homestead near Macrorie in 28-8 about the same time as I had, but he decided the open prairie was too dry so abandoned his holdings to take up land near Kelvington. We couldn't help thinking then how far-sighted or lucky he was, but of course in later years when we were again having good crops, and the north was experiencing floods or frost, we were glad we stayed where we were.

Back at Macrorie we finally organized a crew which went up and loaded and shipped back twenty-three carloads of this straw, on which the Government paid the freight. I was not along with the crew so will not attempt to tell of the experiences they had in gathering and shipping out this feed, instead I acted as bookkeeper back at Macrorie and tried as best I could to keep the accounts straight and settled up without dissatisfaction among ourselves when the job was finished.

This period of drought lasted so long we began to think it would never end. One day a man called at my farm and of course the conversation turned to the dry weather and crop prospects. He said there was

no use fooling ourselves to expect a change as it might be dry indefinitely a statement which I could not help but agree with. Another day a neighbor remarked that Palliser was right and we had been lured to this dry triangle which we might have known was not intended for farming. I felt as though I could agree with him also. Many of our farmers moved to the north country and many more were planning to go as soon as they could get away. The situation was really serious and it was not only drought we had to contend with.

This was during the worst of the Depression and even if we had a bit of grain or a few cattle or hogs to sell they were not worth much. The Banks would not lend money and it seemed there was no way of raising funds with which anything could be financed. Most of our people had to go on relief which was set at the lowest possible amount. I believe it was \$10.00 per month I used to get for myself and hired man to live on. There was some relief fodder but usually it was very poor when we did get any and then it was still necessary to ask for relief feed grain and some years seed grain for what we became indebted by way of relief loans against our land. A brighter aspect of those days was the carloads of vegetables and fruit brought in as donations from the people of Eastern Canada. These were distributed by a committee set up by the local relief administrators to see that all everyone was served according to their need.

As an example of livestock prices note the statement reproduced showing the returns I received for five head of cattle marketed in 1934. Another time I shipped a nice fat young steer of 900 pounds and received a cheque for \$7.50. Our local hardware man Jack Allan took a cow on a store account which he shipped and for which he received a cheque for five cents. I understand Mr. Allan gave this cheque to Mr. Johnson, Federal M.P. who produced it later when addressing the House of Commons as to conditions in the West. A newspaper item from Regina told of a farmer in southern Saskatchewan who had ten horses of which he was quite fond and having no feed for them and being unable to sell them for little or nothing to anyone else about of feed destroyed them all to save them from starvation or other abuse and left the country.

As mentioned a large number of farmers, laborers and even some merchants left the dry prairies some moving east or west but mostly heading to the northern park and bush country. It was a common sight to see families with their stock and household goods and perhaps some oil machinery moving away to start a new life elsewhere. Others of course managed to ship out by train, loading everything in a box car in which they made themselves to look after their livestock.

One of the main causes of farmers leaving their land was the hopeless burden of debt facing them as the depression had made it very bad for those who had borrowed money or mortgaged their land. For years we were unable to make any payments and the interest kept mounting up in many instances the loan companies took over the land and it was then necessary to rent from them and turn over one-third of the crops, if there was anything. I myself had taken a loan of \$3000 on a half section in 1929 and kept paying as best I could. In order to do this one year I had to sell some pure bred Houstain cattle which I would liked to have kept. When the mortgage was finally paid off in 1944 I obtained a statement showing I had paid nearly \$6000 by that time, this in spite of the fact some interest had been cancelled. At times

* Reproduction of statement on back of map.

it seemed we were so badly in debt there was no way out, in view of these mortgages, relief and taxes registered against our land, machine company notes and other debts. However some of the taxes were eventually cancelled and our government was able to make arrangements whereby most of our relief accounts were also written off.

We had a very good crop in 1939 and thought a change for the better had arrived but the grain was such a low price it did not bring the relief we expected. Strangely enough it was the terrible Second World War which brought us better prices for farm produce and there were signs indicating this change that fall of '39. We were threshing on my brother Joe's land one September day when we were called on by a salesman trying to sell a tractor and I remember his remark that he could not understand how it was we had to have a war to lift the depression. The better crops and prices that prevailed through the Forties lifted all those hardships from our land and since then we have had more prosperous times.

Added to the heat and drought of the depression were the awful wind and dust storms which intensified our misery and further damaged our crops and property. I well remember one day about June 1st, 1939 when my crop was up and looking very good, but as the wind had been rather bad for a few days I was out with a team and rack trying to spread some straw on the high land in an effort to keep it from drifting. Presently I saw a black cloud of dust in the west which blacked out everything starting for my buildings which were to the south-east. I had gotten only a short distance when the huge dust cloud and wind struck. I nable to see anything I got the horses stopped at a large stone pile between two quarters, managed to un hitch them and let them go. To keep the wagon from running away I had to force the tongue into the ground. There was a ploughed feet between where I was and the buildings and a sort of wagon track to follow and as the wind was from the north and west I took the tongue of the wagon in hand and let the wind push it down near my buildings a half mile distance, with little or no effort on my part except for the times when I thought rack and wagon would get away from me. On reaching the barn door the horses were waiting there to get in.

That dust storm lasted all night and the next day was also very bad. When the wind had blown itself out the whole place was like a desert, the nice green fields had disappeared and many of my fences were swept away from the force of wind against piles of Russian thistle lodged against them. Some of my neighbors became lost for a time in the storm while coming in from the fields. We thought our nice crop was lost, but soon after there was rain and the grain came again from the roots resulting in a very good crop.

In writing of these winds Anne Marriott tells something of the dismay which many a farmer felt:

Presently the dark dust seemed to build a wall
That cut them off from east and west and north,
Kindness and honesty, things they used to know,
Seemed blown away and lost in frantic soul
God — will it never rain again? What about
Those clouds out west? No, that's just dust as thick
And stifling now as winter underwear
No rain, No crop, No feed, No faith, — only Wind!

During the depression many farmers were unable to buy new cars or even afford gas for their old ones, so many converted their rather old cars into rubber-tired wagons. This was easily and cheaply done, with the result varying according to needs or skill of the owner. In all cases of course necessary to remove the radiator, hood and motor and attach a tongue to which a team of horses could be hitched. Since the majority of old cars so converted were of the touring type the folding top and windshield were also removed leaving just the open body for use as a comfortable passenger conveyance. Where it was necessary to have more of a wagon with which to haul produce the car body was also removed and some sort of wagon box was built on the chassis.

These vehicles were very serviceable and easy-running compared to the regular non-tired farm wagon, and became so popular that just about every old wrecked car was salvaged to fill the demand. At times only two wheels and a car axle were used along with part of a car body or home-made box thus making a cart with tongue or shafts for a team or single horse. While these useful contrivances of both types were horse-drawn during the depression they were later fitted with stub tongues to make them trailers for hauling behind cars or tractors and many of them are still in use, as a handy method of transporting most anything.

Since the great depression occurred during the term of R. B. Bennett as Prime Minister of Canada, the four-wheel jobs were immediately dubbed "Bennett Buggies" or wagons and the two-wheel carts were called "Anderson Carts" after J. T. Anderson, Provincial Premier of that time.

Twice during the past fifty years we have been at war. In 1914 just when we were feeling rather gloomy over our poor prospects of a crop we received the sad news that we were at war. Of course many local boys volunteered for overseas service and as we all know too many did not return while others came back disabled or wounded. Those were four very anxious and distressing years for those who had sons or other relatives at the front, each day everyone searched through the papers for the names on the casualty lists.

After three years of conflict conscription came into effect and a Local Board was set up at Marquette to review applications for exemption and otherwise administer government orders. All the young men had to report to Saskatoon for medical examination but I was not drafted, being medically unfit and also engaged in farming, thus producing badly needed food.

Then just as the war was coming to an end late in 1918, the Flu epidemic struck with tragic results here at home. People became stricken so suddenly and in such great numbers they could not be properly cared for by our few doctors and nurses. When the epidemic was at its worst the Marquette town school was turned into a hospital and crowded with patients while a great many others had to manage by themselves at home. My brother Joe and I and our hired man were all in the school hospital at the same time but were not very sick, and soon well enough to return home. Only the disease seemed to take the big strong men and women while the more delicate ones escaped. According to statistics the flu took more lives than the four years of war. It raged all through the winter of 1918-19 and less severe the following winter.

Then as mentioned war broke out again in 1939 and once more our young men and also many girls were called to the colors. This time the

war seemed to be fought more in the air and more of our recruits joined the Air Force. For a time it looked black as Hitler's armies overran most of Europe and Britain was battered from the air, while the U boats sank so many ship loads of food and materials.

As is often the case the hardships and tragedies of many seemed to bring benefits to others. The waste of war created scarcities which did away with unemployment and raised wages and prices of all commodities. The depression was soon forgotten and most everyone seemed to gain financially. Most of us were afraid of a bad slump following the war, but with continued good crops, increased industry, the finding of oil and many new mineral deposits, prices are being maintained at a very high level except for some farm products.



The Farm Homestead of the Late Abraham Smith

This home took a prize in the contest put on by the North West Farmer some years ago. This is the farm that Mr. Smith bought from George Weston. Mr. Smith's son Walter now owns this farm but their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Swann Skasld live on the place.

CHAPTER 7

CHANGES IN FARMING AND MARKETING

It is interesting to note the changes in farming and marketing methods during the past fifty years. As mentioned previously my first farming experiences in Western Canada were in Manitoba. There we stacked the grain after it was cut with binders, in round stacks with each bundle butted against the ground and tilted in so the stack was well braced to withstand the high winds. The Ontario farmers thought the shocks of sheaves had to be left as open as possible so the grain would dry more readily.

As soon as the grain was ready to stack the majority of Manitoba farmers stacked everything in small stacks of about five loads each. Usually they placed about four stacks in a bush and arranged them so a threshing machine could be set up in any of four positions as the wind required. They pitched into the machine from both sides, and as two stacks were finished the separator was pulled up a little so that in threshing the other two the straw was all in one pile.

In 1901 the machines were mostly fed by hand and stack threshing was usually delayed until late fall or early winter so the few machines could handle the crop and more help was available following harvest, stacking and the stack threshing on larger farms. The machine I worked on at Brookdale had eight stack wagons and four field pitchers. The teamsters stayed in the stack and put the loads but were expected to unload at the machine and handle the sheaves as they landed on the feeder table with heads toward the machine and at a steady rate. Two men were used to feed the grain into the separator working about an hour at a time then changing off. There was of course no self feeder and it was up to these men to see the machine was getting all it could handle. On this machine there was also a man standing at each side of the feeder to cut the twine and see that the sheaf was ready for the feeder to get hold of and there was no danger of a knife getting pushed into the machine. The feeder took only one sheaf at a time first from one side, then the other. It seemed to me that feeding those large threshers by hand was very hard work.

The threshed grain was unstacked or bagged and hauled by teams and wagons to granaries, with very little being hauled directly to market.

During those early days the separators were all driven by steam engines but many of the engines were of the stationary type and the outfits were moved by horses. Everyone put in very long hours, much too long for some of us boys who were too young for the long grind. During the fall of 1905 when I was working at the Maxwell farm near Hanley they had a very large Minneapolis separator with a self feeder. We had four men pitching sheaves into that monster and certainly put a lot of stuff through in a day. With that outfit two men worked with each rack so there was always two men to load and two to pitch off. Most of the outfits working around Hanley that fall were large machines and used from eight to twelve bundle teams each.

On the homestead from 1906 to about 1910 we had only small separators of an older type and they were not equipped with self feeders and blowers. Nels Anderson and the Farlens soon bought the newer and larger machines and then of course gasoline engines also started coming into the district. After the railway came to Macrotte and a good portion of our land was under cultivation, there were soon quite a number

of threshers in the community. It was not long before the gas engines became more numerous than the steamers, as a gas outfit would be run with fewer men and was thus thought to be cheaper to operate. Among other things steam engines were high paid men and had to be licensed, while anyone could run a gas engine or try to.

Ed Lee and the Finalads were among the first to buy a gas tractor for threshing soon after Bert Metcalf and the Yahn boys purchased an outfit. Then the John Murray family did the same and in 1917 my brother Joe and I bought a secondhand outfit. Many more bought machines during the next few years but they were mostly gas and by about 1930 there were very few steam outfits still running.

My brother and I used our IHC Titan gas engine until 1923 and then sold it to Walter Spurling. We then bought a steam engine from Oscar and Erling Torvik and used it until 1927 when we sold that and purchased a Hart Parr gas engine which we used until 1939. Then we bought a Model L Case and this engine is still in use on the farm. However threshing machines gradually went out of use as the combines took over and in 1944 we sold the separator.

From about 1935 to 1945 quite a few farmers harvested their crops with barges, these machines really being headers. They had an elevator attached which elevated the short straw and heads and dropped it into a basket affair that was drawn behind the header. A man stood in the basket holding a sort of stick and it was arranged in such manner that when the small stack bored the basket, it could be dumped and left sitting in the field. When the field was finished it looked here to see those little stacks sitting all over the place. When the grain thus stacked was dry enough for threshing a machine was set up in the middle of the field or other convenient spot and the stacks were hauled up to the feeder with a special self sweeping rake operated by a man and two horses. The long teeth of the rake were pushed right under the stack and then by use of a lever the stack was lifted clear of the ground and taken away to the thrasher. With a long feeder on the separator this grain was easily fed into the machine. This method of harvesting soon gave way to the combines which were fast gaining favor with nearly all farmers.

The chief objection to combines at first was that the grain had to stand so long until or until it was dead ripe and dry enough to be threshed and stored in a bin or taken to the elevator. Some of the old varieties of wheat would shed somewhat while thus standing. Of late years most of the farmers cut their crops with a swath, let it lay a short time and then use a pick up attached to their combine to gather and elevate the grain into the machine. In this way harvesting can start much earlier, but of course if a spell of wet weather comes when the grain is in swath it gets heavy enough to sink to the ground and there is trouble with sprouting. Because of this hazard some farmers prefer to take a chance and wait until the crop can be straight combined.

The method of tilling the land has also greatly changed in 50 years. At first a crop could be taken off every year, when the land was new and moisture plentiful, but we soon found it good practice to summer-fallow or let the land rest a season. This meant plowing at least once during the summer and if it was going to be kept black and free of weeds or other growth a lot of extra cultivation was necessary as well. In thus breaking up the top soil into a fine mulch, it helped to preserve the moisture below for the next crop but when the very dry years came,

and with no protection from the high winds, as in the Thirties, the soil began to blow badly and some changes had to be made in our farming methods.

Before leaving the subject of summerfallow, it may be noted that this is distinctly a Western Canada practice and although it is used elsewhere it is of far less value in our farmers' Prairie Triangle which was originally regarded as unfit for farming but which has proved to be a main portion of The Wheat Landbelt of the World. As mentioned the main purpose of summerfallowing is to store up moisture to help grow a crop the following year in the area of normally light rainfall quite often our summer rain is not sufficient alone to grow a crop. The idea of summerfallow was in fact a Saskatchewan discovery which came about through the presence of the tractor maker Louis Holt. When the rebellion of 1885 occurred early in that spring most of the horses from the beef farms at Indian Head were drafted for the transporting of supplies from Qu'Appelle for Gen. Middleton's troops. The result was that very little plowing was done during the spring as was the custom and at the time a large amount of plowing was done in June to dispose of weeds. It was then too late for that year's crop and it lay idle the balance of the year. The land was cropped the next season which proved to be a drought year and while other lands were a complete failure the summerfallow crop gave a favorable return and because of this experience the practice became regular.

Returning to the soil drifting of the Thirties, something had to be done. Some farmers winter strip farming whereby a large field was divided into strips 100 to 150 rods wide, in every other strip was seeded while the others were summerfallowed. The object in striping the drifting as the winds were then not so bad to get the same sweep of broad bare areas. Other farmers especially up toward Comstock used another idea and divided their fields into strips by means of catagana hedges which also broke the sweep of winds.

About this time the one-way disk or disk pack came into use and I bought one during 1936. It was found that by going away with deep plowing and using these machines the stubble and trash was kept mostly on top of the soil and thus most of our surface from drifting and soil erosion was gone away with. Also the ground cover was not brought to the surface to the extent that occurred with plowing and more moisture was conserved. These are seldom used in this district now but in some parts they use them in the spring and draw a disk behind the plow. This makes a fine bed of seedling in the lighter soil and is practiced to some extent in the Lothrop and Swanton districts. By seeding right at the time the plowing is done it gives the grain a chance to get started right away in the moist soil and it is well up and growing by the time the land gets dry enough to blow thus protecting the soil from wind.

Our farmers are finding that going over the land so many times with one way is leaving the subsoil very hard and if late years some are using Graham Horse plows or stiff tooth cultivators when they summerfallow and in this way loosen up the subsoil.

It was so hard to keep the land from blowing during the dry years that we almost stopped using the drag harrows. Then after we became accustomed to using the one-way, these old style harrows were not much good anyway as they just plugged up with trash. Now there are the flexible harrows and self-cleaning type of harrows, and with the

moisture we are getting these years, harrowing seems to be one of the main operations again. It just seems as if a field, just seeded, is not finished properly unless it is harrowed.

The new methods of farming and the new machinery has made a big difference in the amount of help that is needed. One man now with a good tractor, a one-way, a combine and a few other pieces of machinery, can easily farm a section or more of land alone. There is very little hand shoveling of grain now since we have loaders, and with dump boxes on the trucks quite often the farmers wife hauls the grain from the combine to the granary, so there is little need of extra help, even in harvest. It used to take a lot of extra men to stock the grain and man the threshing machines. In the old days the railways put on harvest excursions every fall from Eastern Canada, and brought out thousands of men to help with the extra work of taking the crop off. But now very few extra men are needed except on the larger farms and there are actually fewer farms.

Another big change is the way the grain is delivered to market. Thirty or forty years ago the grain was delivered to the elevators fairly steady over much of the year. With an open market any farmer who could afford to store grain at home, only sold enough in the fall to pay his thresh bill and attend to other urgent matters as the price usually dropped then. By holding till spring the price was often better. But with the coming of the Wheat Board, as soon as harvest starts everyone hauls with trucks and spurs in the elevators soon filled up. This still applies even though we have been on a quota system during recent years designed to give everyone a chance to market at least some grain as elevator room is available. This system seems to be quite satisfactory though, as it is no doubt fair for all concerned.

Up until about 1910 most of our grain was handled by "line" elevator companies or was loaded on cars and consigned to Grain Commission Merchants to be sold by them. Early in the century the farmers started the Grain Growers Association and soon found they could do better with their grain by starting an elevator company of their own. This they did and founded the Co-operative Elevator Company, which did very well and was a big improvement over what we had before. Then in 1921 the farmers thought they could do better still if they could pool their grain and have it marketed so all would receive the same price per bushel for the same grade. It was arranged that an initial payment was made on delivery, then interim payments were made as grain was sold, and ending with a final payment after the close of the crop year.

The Wheat Pool soon took over the Co-Op Elevator Company, and bought and built other elevators until they now own a very large number of "houses" and are giving service at most shipping points in Saskatchewan. They have also acquired and built some very large terminal elevators at the Great Lakes, and as storage accommodation became crowded, numerous Annexes have been built beside our prairie elevators.

The Pool did very well for a few years but during 1929 they ran into difficulties when they made too large an initial payment and they had to go to the government for assistance. The Pool then operated for a time as an elevator company, but was soon able to pay back the money borrowed.

During the last War the Government of Canada set up the Wheat Board as we have it now and our system of marketing is carried on very much the same as it was when the Wheat Pool first started except for quotas. The Wheat Pool has grown to be a very strong organization in the prairie provinces. Most farmers are members and at most points where there are one or sometimes two Pool elevators, there is a Wheat Pool committee made up of local members. The committee meets regularly and attends to any local problems that come up. Saskatchewan is divided into sixteen Wheat Pool districts, each of which is represented on the Central Board by one Director. Then each district is divided into ten sub-districts, and each sub-district elects a delegate. All these directors and delegates meet at least once a year at an annual or special meeting. These meetings determine the Pool's policy for the future. Also once a year the Wheat Pool Committee in a sub-district meet at a convention and talk over their problems and hear a report from their delegate and director and a representative for the Pool Elevators.

The Wheat Pool also owns and operates a flour mill at Saskatoon, and a flax seed mill in addition to a Livestock Marketing Division which has offices at most of the stockyards throughout the west. They also own the Western Producer, a weekly farm paper with a large circulation.

Our farmers' views in respect to livestock have also changed greatly with the times. From the days of earliest days the change was of course to horses, and every farmer had them as an indispensable main source of power to till the land and transport him and his family where they wished to go. Now with all the tractors and automobiles the horse is no longer needed to any extent, and many farms have none at all. The few who still keep a team use them only for odd jobs which scarcely keeps them broke to harness.

In the early settlement years most everyone kept a cow or two, then came a few more head as a rule and by about 1920 it appeared as if mixed farming was more profitable than straight grain and many started milking a number of cows and shipping cream to the fairly numerous creameries located in various towns. In fact about this time Dr. Harrison shipped in a ranch of pure bred Holsteins and it looked so much like a dairy district that Pat Burns built a creamery at Macdonald. It did a good business for a time but when the poor crops and shortage of feed developed during the Thirties the dairy picture changed and the creamery shut down, was sold and moved away. During the time the farmers were keeping a lot of cows they began growing corn and looking also. One corn binder was bought and used in the district. Since about the start of the last War the trend has been toward straight grain farming, and many live on their farms only during summer and go somewhere for the winter or move into town.

Since horses are not used on the roads to amount to anything there are no roads into the outlying parts of the district during winter, as the country roads soon fill up with snow preventing the use of cars. About the only way to get through this snow in an emergency is with a tractor. This factor has been a main reason for people deciding to leave their farms in winter and of course when they are not on the farms they cannot very well look after cattle or pigs. Again, this trend of going in for grain exclusively has helped build up our wheat surplus which is now such a problem. Most of the land previously used in growing feed for horses, cattle and pigs, is now growing grain that has to be marketed through the Wheat Board or grain trade.

Of course we still have our cattle raisers and a few have very large herds. Men like Dan Kingman and Lore Ingell always keep a good sized herd around, the Fosbergs have from two to three hundred head of Herefords, Leonard Mollerud, Sandy Murray and Omar Torvik keep varying sized herds, Adolf Roseth has quite a herd of Angus cattle; and of course there are others who still keep a few or at least a cow or two.

Back in the Twenties when the Macroe Agricultural Society was in operation, great interest was taken in showing horses and cattle, pigs and poultry. Of late years our Society has not even been holding an annual fair and the younger farmers do not seem interested in other than new and better machinery. However a promising Calf Club has now been formed, with Sandy Murray as leader, and of late years they have had very successful shows and sales. Perhaps the keen interest now taken by the boys and girls will in time revive general interest in livestock of all kinds throughout the district. The wheat surplus now piling up may also make our farmers turn more to stock and the raising of more feed grain and less wheat.



This Picture taken at Burr in 1939
Left to Right—My sister Mrs. H. Metcalf
and Leila, Huber Coleman and Wife, Jean
Coleman, my sister-in-law Mrs. John Cohoon,
Mrs. Vic Jancey and my niece Dorothy
Rollins.

CHAPTER 8

EARLY LAND SYSTEM LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SCHOOLS

During the early years of settlement only the even numbered sections of land were available as "free" homesteading quarters, and all of Sections 8 and 26, except the north-east quarter of the latter, were Hudson's Bay Company land, granted as a consideration for surrender of its original Charter terms. In every 5th township the Hudson's Bay Company received all of both sections in order to make up nine sections out of every 180, or one-twentieth of all land in the fertile belt, according to the terms of agreement.

Sections 11 and 29 were reserved as School lands. All the remaining odd-numbered sections were reserved, with exceptions, "for selection as railway grants to colonizing railways." The railways were awarded a definite acreage which was chosen by them from these reserves "within 22 miles of the line of railway on each side thereof."

As this applied only during the early years before many branch lines were built, when the West was largely unsettled, there was thus a large quantity of odd-numbered sections not granted to the railways, and some such tracts were sold to land companies. A few years later many of these odd sections were thrown open to homesteaders as pre-emptions or as purchased homesteads by settlers already there. If a quarter section became available right beside your original homestead you were thus able to purchase it as a pre-emption, but if you obtained a quarter some distance away it would be a purchased homestead. As to these extra lands you had to perform homestead duties the same as for original homesteads but it was not necessary to live on them as long as you remained on the first homestead. Also a purchased homestead could not be more than nine miles from your home farm. The fee or cost of pre-emptions or purchased homesteads was three dollars per acre.

Because of this system it was some years before all our land was taken up or settled and the list of neighbors so far given is far from complete as so many settlers came along later and obtained land not available before. Later in my story I will go into that phase of settlement and endeavor to show who eventually became the owners of all our district farms. As to the owners from time to time up to the present, it is only necessary to refer to the maps issued by the municipalities for any particular year.

As to mineral rights which were of little concern to the pioneer but which have since become quite valuable, it would seem the Crown reserved those rights on all homestead land, but the Hudson's Bay and Railway titles, and certain land company titles included the minerals. As these latter lands were sold it depended on the policy of the Company then, whether the minerals went with surface rights or were reserved. As certain lands, sold with mineral rights again changed hands, the minerals might be reserved by the seller if he took that notion.

Soon after we settled on our land we were assessed for taxes. Prior to 1907 we were included in Local Improvement District No. 322 which was the large Saskatoon L.I.D. There were no local officers of such districts prior to 1907. I have a "Tax Receipt" dated November 17th, 1906 for taxes paid covering the years 1905 and 1906, the amount being

* See Back of Map.

\$4.00 which was sent to Regina. The early school districts had to collect their own taxes directly from the settlers.

Then on July 5th, 1907, Local Improvement District 14-E-3 was established, which included Divisions One, Two and Three of the present R.M. No. 285. The first officers were Ole Farden, Alex. Murray, W. T. Hall, Percy Hopkins, Ole Loue, C. H. Harvey with A. G. Sealy as Secretary-Treasurer. Mrs. May Tervik, who is Ole Farden's youngest daughter, says she can remember this L.I.D. Council paying a meeting at her father's place on at least one occasion. More details of the early municipal affairs will come later.

Three School Districts were organized about this time. West Star was organized January 12th, 1907 and the school was built on the north-west corner of Section 15-28-8, but classes were held in the house of Charlie Farden before the school was completed. Goodwill was organized June 29th, 1907 and was built on the south-west corner of Section 26-27-8, and it was actually the first school building to be completed and put into use, although classes did not start as early as those of West Star. Bratton was organized June 21st, 1910 and was built on the south-east corner of Section 11-28-9.

The first teacher at West Star was Karl Farden. First teacher at Goodwill was Dr. Roob from Kingston, Ont. The first teacher at Bratton was Harry Hal. These schools have of course had many different teachers, and for example, the list for Goodwill includes 27 names, with Mrs. George Yahn as the last, having taught from 1934 to 1940 when the school was closed. Those school buildings have all been sold or moved away now. The Bratton School was moved into Macrorie and is now the Masonic Hall, the Goodwill School has also been moved to Macrorie and is the Legion Hall.

Many other schools were organized throughout the district as it developed.

West Point was built on the south-west corner of Section 3-27-7.

Lake Coteau was built on the north-west corner of Section 8-27-7.

Mount Marie was built on the south side of Section 5-27-8.

Monmawalla was built on the west side of Section 14-27-9.

Surliton was built on the south west of Section 9-28-9, but later moved to the north-west of Section 33-27-9.

Red Deer was built on the north-west corner of Section 29-28-9.

Since power farming has become the fashion most of the land is being worked by people who live in town and very few country schools are now operating.

Dorenan School District was organized much later and the classes are held in the Bratton Memorial Hall. There are also the Big Valley and Picadilly Districts in the R.M. of Coteau. The Seventh Day Adventists also run a school for their children in their church south of Macrorie. Finally there is of course the four-roomed school in town.

The R.M. of Fertile Valley was established in December, 1909 and was ready for the election of a Council for 1910. The first Reeve was Ike McAdam, with Councilors, O. J. Farden for Div. 1, W. T. Hall, Div. 2, Percy Hopkins, Div. 3, J. P. Schwartz, Div. 4, A. W. Badger, Div. 5, and M. Lamonte for Div. 6. Charles Hornby was the first Secretary-Treasurer.

After the municipality was formed the officers had to contend with the problem of roads over its area of some four hundred square miles. Later the Dept of Highways took over some of the main roads but up to the present there is not a Provincial Highway running through Divisions One and Two. Around 1950 the residents of the Macrorie and Bratton districts sent a delegation to Regina in an effort to get a main road built from Highway 15 down through the district. Some financial assistance was obtained shortly after which helped to grade up and grave a few main roads so there is now a way to get out during wet weather. However there is still the problem of keeping roads open in winter and it is hoped a Provincial Highway may be built through Bratton and Macrorie to further improve conditions.

During the early days the main trails and roads were naturally directed largely toward a river crossing, or ferry. While the ferries rendered a fine service over many years they were not always a fully dependable way to cross the Mighty Saskatchewan. Occasionally a ferry would break its cables and float down the river until beached, and there were often landing difficulties during high or low water. Some of these difficulties were mentioned in the reports of the Dept of Public Works, as following will show. "Owing to the large influx of settlers to the district west of Hanley, in 1901 a new ferry was installed on the South Saskatchewan about 26 miles west of that point." This was the ferry which became known as Rush, although it had to be moved after a brief time to a different site nearby. In 1905 the report comments on the difficulties due to the low water during part of the season, with the shifting of sand bars and new bars growing up in the middle of the river. In 1906 after being moved, the reports speak of the trouble in maintaining satisfactory service on account of shifting sand bars and varying currents. The report of 1908 records the construction of a floating landing to help give better service. In 1909 the ferryman, Harry Lees was drowned and a Mr Reid was operator for the balance of the season or until this ferry was discontinued.



The Combination Railway and Traffic Bridge at Elbow, Sask. Notice the railway tracks are overhead and roadway beneath.

Much the same conditions prevailed at the Outlook ferry until a permanent roadway was built out from the east bank to near the centre of the river. This kept the main channel fairly clear of sand bars.

As to our early winter roads we were able to cross the river most anywhere on the ice, but care had to be taken to avoid certain spots of thin ice or open water, and there was often poor sleighing over the sand bars due to sand drifting with the snow. After leaving the river these winter sleigh trails were often shortened by cutting across various farmer's fields in a fairly direct route to town, or to our own homes. In order to keep warm during a trip most men dressed well and otherwise kept warm by walking or running behind the sleigh. Where women-folk were travelling in open sleigh boxes or cutters it was of course necessary to have good buffalo robes, well heated bricks or stones as foot warmers

if you were not fortunate enough to have a regular charcoal warmer. The comfort of the completely closed-in "jumper," corresponding to a little house on runners with glass "windows," a slot for the driving reins and a specially constructed coal heater, was for the later days of progress.

The Macross Agricultural Society was formed in 1920, with both farmers and town people taking a great interest in the organization. Fall fairs were held for about ten or twelve years until the depression came along. In 1928 the Agricultural Building was erected and this was mostly financed by selling Life Memberships. These sold for \$7.50 and the Provincial Government granted a like amount so in this way each membership brought in \$15 for the building fund. While this enabled construction of the building it created some trouble for the Society later on inasmuch as life members could not be asked for the usual annual \$1 membership, making it difficult to find funds with which to carry on. During the depression also the Provincial Government curtailed their grants and the Society had no alternative but to discontinue the annual fairs.

Meanwhile the building is still used for the Calf Club Achievement Days, it proved very useful for the mixing of grasshopper bait, and continues to serve as a good rink for winter sports. The Society and the Village own the twenty or more acres of land where the building is located, this ground also supplying space for baseball and other outdoor sports. A Pat Burns Creamery had been located for a few years on this site. A great deal of volunteer labour went into the erection of the Agricultural Building and also into later maintenance, and the building of the fence and repair of it.



The Municipal Council of Port of Spain in 1922, taken in Municipal Office at Conquest. Left to right: W. A. Cohoon, Reeve Arva, Quibell, Div. 5, Tom Clark, Div. 6, O. E. Cole, Div. 3, W. F. Quinn, Municipal Sec.-Treas., C. J. Ward, Div. 2, Wm. Kendall, Div. 1, Robt. Hornby, Div. 4, and Mr. Gardiner, Weed Inspector.

The 1929 Annual Fair Prize List indicates the following officers:
 Honorary Presidents — Mr. A. Smith and Mr. H. E. Britnell.
 President — Dr. W. F. Harrison
 Vice-Presidents — H. W. Williams and W. A. Cohoon.
 Secretary-Treasurer — Mr. I. H. Kreutzweiser
 Announcer for the Fair — Peter Jensen
 Board of Directors — Messrs. Wm. Kendall, J. C. Armstrong, Tom Fox-

croft Philip Columbus, S. J. Bergstrom, Roy Galbra, Louis Hodges, Ivor Kvale, A. O. Gibson, H. F. Murray, Walter Smith, C. M. Henderson, Alex. T. Murray, R. L. Mansfield, Arnold Kistron, Henry Cole, Lore Ingell, W. L. Cruckshank, D. L. Peck, F. Veerman, Isaac Holmes, Harold Metcalf, Allan Armstrong, Albert Bonta, George Hansson.

Lady Directors: Mesdames J. C. Armstrong, Wm. Kennell, Harry Grief, Ed. Margaret Murray, A. Smith, A. Bonta, F. O. Torvik, A. O. Gibson, F. N. Kernes, Henry Cole, A. T. Murray, Len Galbra, H. W. Williams, and Chas. Redden.

For many years when the Macrose district was new there was a strong Grain Growers Association and at this time the Saskatchewan Grain Growers was a very popular organization. Mr Maharg was Provincial President and J. B. Macleod was the Provincial Secretary. However as time went on there were some farmers in the province who thought the Grain Growers were not doing enough in looking after the farmer's interests so they formed a separate organization, the Farmers Union. Naturally there was some friction between the two and as some of the more reasonable officers of both organizations realized that was not a good thing they arranged a meeting between delegates from both bodies. As a result they agreed to amalgamate under the name of The United Farmers of Canada (Saskatchewan Section) as it was the aim of the new organization to be amicable and harmonious. I had the pleasure of being at that meeting and will remember too, how Mr. Partidge, Frank Flaxson and others worked to get the opposing delegates to drop their differences. Both Mr. Partidge and Mr. Flaxson have since died.

The old Macrose grain growers organized a trading association and this was later re-organized under the Department of Co-operation with the name of the Macrose Co-operative Association. They sold carloads of home apples, lumber, cardboard and paper goods and staples, etc. but as they did not have a regular place of business they began having trouble with the railways for losing their goods on the railroad right of way so they bought a lot near Sydney, Bergstrom's property and Syd managed their business for some time. The depression made it very difficult to carry on and they finally closed.

However early in the 1940's there was agitation to buy a store so loan capital was subscribed and the store of D. L. Galbra was purchased by the new Macrose District Co-operative Association. The first manager employed for the store was Gordon Reid from Outlook who later moved to North Battleford. His helper Maurice Grindle then managed the store until he died in 1953 at which time Mr. Olfie assumed the position.

After purchase of the store the stock was moved to a remodeled building where the former Farmer store had been located and it has since prospered and has been added to recently and now is a very fine store indeed.

The Macrose and Telford Credit Union was formed about 1947. First Secretary Treasurer was Gordon Reid who handed over to Maurice Grindle at the same time as he took over the store management. On the death of Maurice the position was separated from any connection with the store and W. West Chambers became Secretary Treasurer with the business being handled in his elevator office. During 1954 the safe was stolen from that office and was not recovered. This organization has supplied a very necessary service for its members in way of savings accounts and loans. Of course the loss of the safe and what it contained was covered by insurance.

MACROBIE GRAIN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

1918 Members

Thomas Aitcheson	R. A. Hall	Bill Negrych
W. C. Andrew	Isaac Holmes	Nels Oddegard
O. B. Adams	Walter E. Howe	Andrew Oddegard
J. C. Armstrong	C. Haegeman	Ole Oddegard
M. Alto	Louis Hodges	Geo. Patterson
Nels Anderson	Axel Hagberg	Jim Patterson
H. E. Britnell	Jas. Hayward	N. E. Prentice
Ed. Boughton	W. H. Hurlburt	J. C. Pouss
Mike Bodrug	Leslie Hurlburt	Jaca Ross
Nick Bodrug	R. Hampton	H. O. Redden
Andrew Bodrug	John Hakala	Chas. Redden
T. H. Barnes	Fred Harvey	Ernie Redden
Mrs. T. H. Barnes	B. Hodes	Jas. Redden
Mrs. E. Boughton	Fred Hanslow	Bert Roper
Victor Baldwin	George Hanslow	Knut Risdahl
Owen Baldwin	Jim Holmes	A. Risdahl
Albert Bonitz	Pete Jensen	J. Risdahl
E. Berquist	Bill Jowsey	L. A. Rush
Fred Bos	J. G. Kendall	A. S. Rogers
Walter Coates	Philip Columbia	J. B. Radiger
Jack Condon	A. V. Kendall	A. Rounen
Jack Cleveland	Wm. Kendall	Jack Roney
W. A. Cohoon	Isaac Kendall	Harry Soane
W. L. Cruickshank	Ed. Karppinen	A. Sunquist
Fred Cooper	John Karvonen	Wilbur Stevenson
George Cooper	Ivor Kvale	Wilbert Sparling
Thos. Corrigan	August Lammers	Alf Shorter
J. G. Cohoon	H. G. Lygo	Abe Smith
Henry Cole	Will Lorentson	Joe Sheppard
Andy Cooper	Ed Lee	A. P. Sjovold
Frank Delparte	Oscar Leppa	W. M. Sentner
Victor Delparte	Bob Coviello	Arthur Sack
L. A. Dunning	C. J. Merwart	A. Tyequet
Jen Davies	C. Merwart	Ed. Thumstrom
Albert Elm	H. A. Metcalf	E. O. Torvik
John Elverson	Mrs. H. A. Metcalf	M. Tapinalla
John Foxcroft	S. H. Metcalf	George Weston
Thos. Foxcroft	Mrs. S. H. Metcalf	A. P. Webster
Wm. Foxcroft	H. H. Metcalf	M. C. Webster
S. R. Kendall	Don Metcalf	Mrs. M. C. Webster
John Farden	Rev. Metcalf	Fred Wood
A. O. Farden	A. T. Murray	Frank Wood
Thos. Flear	Victor Marckula	J. J. Williams
J. B. Fugitt	Ole Monkruide	H. W. Williams
Oscar Finsand	John Myktyuk	Isaac Weston
Jake Columbia	Billy Miles	F. E. Yahn
Louie Columbia	Howard Murray	Geo. Yahn
Jos. Gardiner	O. Maki	Willard Yahn
Mrs. Jos. Gardiner	J. A. McEachern	Jacob Ylloja
Harry Griffiths	Jack Moran	Albert Ylinen
N. Ginek	I. Nordven	Bill Young
H. A. Harvey	A. Nordven	

THE 143 LIFE MEMBERS

MACROBIE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

J. C. Armstrong	Philip Columbia	I. H. Krenttweiser
W. Armstrong	Morton Columbia	Ivor Kooile
Mary Armstrong	Clara Columbia	M. Lozoway
Alan Armstrong	Sam Columbia	W. A. Loreutson
J. U. Allan	Louise Columbia	M. Litchun
Hans Anholt	Jake Columbia	Edward Lee
W. C. Andrews	W. A. Gullis	D. L. Metcalf
Nels Anderson	Roy Gilbe	H. H. Metcalf
Dr. T. D. Bennett	Mrs. R. Gulas	H. B. Murray
Miss Bodrug	D. L. Gallup	Carlton Murray
William Banting	Verden Grandle	Mrs. M. Murray
H. G. Blackwell	H. A. Harvey	Oaver Murray
H. E. Britnell	Arthur Harvey	Alex. T. Murray
S. J. Bergstra	Harold Harvey	Cass Merwart
J. D. Bryce	Clnton Harvey	R. L. Maxfield
Frank Butcher	Chas. Henderson	Mrs. R. L. Maxfield
George Barrie	Leslie Huriburt	Ronald Maxfield
William Barrie	Isaac Holmes	Charlie Mullins
William Butcher	James Holmes	A. H. Moe
E. M. Conrad	L. B. Henn	Alex. McQuarrie
Will Cruckshank	Louise Hodges	O. J. Odegard
S. B. Calloway	Mrs. L. Hodges	E. A. Palmer
W. A. Cohoon	J. M. Holroyd	D. L. Peachy
J. G. Cohoon	Dr. W. F. Harrison	N. E. Prentice
Fred Cunningham	E. Hagerman	Ed. Peachy
Norma Cunningham	W. T. Hill	Chas. Redden
Clayton Cunningham	John A. Hill	Jim Redden
Vernon Calloway	Harry Hall	Al Rogers
Chong Chow	Elsie Henn	Adolph Roseth
John Condon	George Hanslow	Arnold Restron
L. H. Condon	Matt Harjdstad	Abe Smith
T. V. Condon	Charlie Hackett	Harold Smith
Edith Cooke	O. Hogberg	Walter Smith
Audy Cooper	Len P. Hopkins	Jack Smith
Jule Delparte	Lore Ingeli	W. J. Shepard
Frank Delparte	R. Jardine	Ray Shepard
Mike Doering	A. W. James	Wm. Sentner
Jim Daniels	Vivian Johnson	Andrew Sjovold
Gordon Ellis	Merle Johnson	Geo. Thompson
Otto Farden	Albert Jensen	Walton Torvik
John Farden	Peter Jensen	Oscar Torvik
Wm. Foxcroft	Chas. James	E. E. Veeman
Tom Foxcroft	E. N. Kersey	W. Williams
Robert Foxcroft	Wm. Kendall	S. F. Webster
W. L. Freden	John Kendall	F. E. Yahn
A. O. Gibson	Margaret Kendall	Geo. Yahn
Lorne Gibson	Isaac Kendall	Willard Yahn
J. R. Graham	Ellen Kendall	

CHAPTER 9

MORE PIONEERS AND LATER SETTLERS

There are many others who came into the district in later years and have been prominent and successful farmers. Among the earlier of these was Fritz Lorenz who farmed in 27 & was very public spirited and a willing common laborer. His wife passed on a few years ago, but two daughters remain both married, with one living on the home farm.

John Smith Sr. farmed many years near Marmora, then moved to Macorne where they lived until their death some time ago. Their son John also farmed well, served as Councilor for Division Two but died suddenly about ten years ago leaving a wife and two sons. His eldest boy John Jr. has carried on with the farm successfully married and with a family is president of the Marmora Rural Telephone Company, he is also a good mechanic.

Alb. Smith brother of John Sr. came into the district a little later and homesteaded in the R. M. of 1890, later moving to Sec. 15, 27 & which was owned by George Shetterley, the latter being from across the Line and only came to Canada with fall for harvest. I threshed the crop for Mr. Smith and Shetterley the fall of 1920 and recall how George demonstrated his grain sheafing ability. Alb. was a valuable man in our district and did much work for the public good. Following the retirement of he and Mrs. Smith to Marmora she passed on after which he lived with his daughters and son Harold in H. part time. A daughter Elsie married Wm. Macroft, raising a family of three girls who are all married, but she died three years ago near Hanes, B.C. Another daughter Edith also lived at the farm, married a Mr. Hungerford and now resides near Crescenzo on Vancouver Island. Harold did some farming near Hanes, B.C. then worked in a sawmill for a time but is now in the U.S. married and has two daughters. Winnie the youngest girl married John MacNee and lives in Saskatoon and Mr. Smith was living with them when he died two years ago. The eldest son Walter took over the home farm west of Macorne this being land his father bought from George Weston. Walter married Annie Lammers and has a son and daughter. The son Billy is married and they live in Saskatoon, while the daughter married Hugh Skandal and they are now on the Smith farm, while Walter and Annie have purchased a home in the city.

George Weston homesteaded in 27 & and served the district well as Secretary-Treasurer of the Grain Growers, a similar position with the Telephone Company when it was first organized and as a public speaker. He later became a Minister and moved with his family to the Western 18.

Charles Ward was another public spirited Englishman who farmed in 27 & was a Councilor for Division Two, a war veteran and prominent in the Legion. After moving from Marmora to Saskatoon he there was nominated and ran as a Conservative candidate later he and Mrs. Ward have resided in the north of the province but Charles died recently.

Jim Redden bought a farm near Marmora from Fred Hanson, a brother of George. Jim married Hilda Watson and they have a family of two girls and four boys. The eldest girl Sherie married Jim Shetterley, son of Sarah Shetterley (brother of George). The second girl Marjorie married Norman Ingels, son of Lore Ingels. The eldest boy Harold is married and lives at Delmar. The second boy Lloyd has land south of town and does trucking. Merle has been variously employed but is now a clerk.

in the Co-Op store, while Vernon stays mostly with his father at home. Jim is the surviving brother of the late Ernie, Charlie and Dr. Redden, all being from Ontario. Charlie and Ernie farmed together a number of years before Charlie married and Ernie went into the store business.

John A. Hill, a brother of Mrs. Wilbur Banting, came to Macrorie from the south of the province, married Laura Barrie, and they have three children. Jack has done well and recently erected a fine farm home.

The Corbells came to Macrorie from Forgan where they had farmed, and bought the Hotel which they operated a few years. They purchased land east of town and also acquired two town houses, but sold the hotel. Mr. Corbett passed on a few years ago but the sons Alton and Kenneth maintain their farming interests, while Mrs. Corbett Sr. lives in Saskatoon.

Lore Ingell married a daughter of the late Tom Barnes. He bought the George Cruikshank homestead when first coming to the district and has proved a worthy citizen, serving on the boards of most local organizations, was municipal councillor for 18 years and also twice for three years. His youngest son Wayne is married and lives in Regina. The youngest daughter Kathleen lives in Saskatoon, while the older girl Florence lives on a farm north of Outlook, both being married. A second son Leslie was killed overseas serving with the R.C.A.F. The eldest son Norman has taken over the home farm and Mr. Ingell has retired to Saskatoon.

Jack Kinsman moved to our district in 1947 when he purchased my farm, and has since married. They spend the winters elsewhere, and also put in considerable time at Raman, where Jack homesteaded and has acquired other extensive interests. Dan Kinsman is a brother.

Nels Nesheim came to the district many years ago, purchased a quarter from Homer Metcalf, and has added to this in establishing his present large farm beside the River. He married a sister of Mrs. Ed Lee, and they have a family of three girls, all married and one boy Norris, at home.

Leonard and Truman Mollerude came from north of Outlook, where their parents lived, rented land from the late Mrs. (Dr.) Redden and later bought adjoining land which they have developed into a very good farm, as any visitor may see.

Harry Britnell who came to the district in 1910 was one of our most successful farmers and very worthy citizen. He was Reeve of the R. M. of Festive Valley for 11 years, was chairman of the board of directors of the local telephone company, and held many other responsible positions. He retired to B.C. and died in 1954. His son Frank is on the home farm and is chairman of the board of the Larger School Unit. The eldest son George is the well known economist and professor at the University of Saskatchewan. A daughter Nellie is a widow and is a nurse in Victoria, B.C.

The Nuskalas came to the district south of town some years ago and bought the Abe Smith homestead and the other land nearby. Then Elmer bought the Carl Andrews land where he and his wife reside.

Ted Webster also farmed west of Macrorie for many years, he remarried after losing his first wife and of late years has been living on a small farm he has south of Saskatoon.

Wilbur Banting came to the district when it was new, and by his untiring industry has built up a large farm and nice home. He and Mrs.

Banting have two sons and a daughter, the eldest son is married and lives down East, the younger son Elgin reading, married, near his parents, while the girl Elsie is teaching south of Regina. The Wilbur and Elgin Bantings are a great help in the Macrorie Lusted Church Sunday School, as well as workers for the Church of Christ.

John Tweedie came to the district from Warton and purchased the former Shepard farm. The Tweedies have three boys and a girl. The eldest son Andy works the Harry Hall farm and has employment at Edmorton each winter. Dave has his own land near by, George works at home, and the daughter has a position in Saskatoon.

Johnny Wilson came from Scotland with his mother in 1927, and Mrs. Wilson was housekeeper a year for J. J. Robinson. Then in 1928 she came to keep house for my brother and I. Johnny was attending school but soon quit and worked for me. Being a faithful worker and quick to learn he was soon away farming on his own and has done very well. His mother passed on some years ago. Johnny married Harriett Lee and they have two sons and two daughters.

Jack and Allan Armstrong were among the early settlers. Jack and his wife had a son and two daughters. The son Waverly farmed near Macrorie a few years before moving to B.C. where he has since died. His wife was Isabel Badger, a teacher at Bratton for a time. The girls Lily and Mary are married, and Luy lives in B.C. Mary lives in Alberta. Jack Armstrong died some years ago and Mrs. Armstrong moved to Alberta. She had been a very willing worker for such organizations as the Grain Growers and Agricultural Society.

Allan Armstrong moved back to Ontario soon after marrying but still owns land here. Jack and Allan's father used to own land at both Macrorie and Bratton.

Neil McKenzie arrived in the district when Bill Taylor retired, and Neil still lives on the Taylor farm. His son Norman works the Armstrong farm just across the lake from his father.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Stevenson, early settlers, raised their family in the district but they are now all away, though Howard comes back occasionally to look after the old homestead and a house in town.

George Stacy homesteaded to the west of town but sold his land to Philip Columbus and moved to the coast where he has since died.

Isaac Holmes homesteaded in the same vicinity and also sold to Philip Columbus, after which he moved further south and successfully farmed. He and his daughter Margaret moved to Vancouver Island, his wife having died some time before. A son Tom lives at Saskatoon, while the younger son Bill was through the last war, is married and now reading in B.C. Isaac died out on the Island about ten years ago.

Charlie Henderson farmed in the district many years and had a large family of boys and girls. Charlie was killed when hit by a car while walking home one night from Macrorie. His widow is living near the youngest son Wilson at Vancouver, the eldest son Morley died while quite young, the second son Oren joined the R.C.A.F. and was killed overseas, the girls have all married and moved away.

Gulik Dalen now lives on the land formerly occupied by the Hendersons, the Dalens are of Scandinavian stock and for some time Gulik worked for the P.F.R.A. on the proposed South Saskatchewan Dam site.

Corson and Green were not among the earliest pioneers, but they arrived as partners in time to do considerable breaking and threshing with their large Reeves outfit and farmed Section 13-27-8, which has changed hands several times, being now worked by Ivar Kvale.

The Bratton district had an active citizen during the early days in the person of Roy Brundige who homesteaded the S.E. 24-28-8, W3. He had one of those large Reeves steam engines with which he did a lot of prairie breaking and threshing. He sold his farming interests many years ago, following which he had a machine business at Milden. His wife was a sister of Jack and Allan Armstrong.

Ford Beavis, son of Rev. R. B. Beavis, is one of the most extensive farmers in the Bratton District at the present time and has threshed up to 50,000 bushels of wheat in a single year. He is also owner of the Baldwin Hotel in Saskatoon.

D. L. Peachy was also a prominent Bratton farmer, having bought land when coming to the district. He retired to Outlook and has since passed on, but his widow remains there. Their son Ed, now residing in Conquest, was also public spirited and a district leader in many enterprises, being for a time a director of the Macrorie Rural Telephone Company, president of the Macrorie Co-Op store, director of the Outlook Co-Op board, municipal councillor for Division 2, and a Wheat Pool delegate. He still owns land near Bratton, and his brother Gordon, married to a daughter of Elmer Kersey, one time resident of Macrorie, resides on the old home place of his late father.

Jim Park farmed north of Bratton many years but moved into the hamlet about five years ago to become postmaster and storekeeper. His son Gordon lives on the old Park homestead.

Doc Tett and brother Ben started a store at Bratton when the railway came through in 1911. Ben eventually returned to Eastern Canada, but Doc carried on until selling out to Jim Park due to ill health. Mrs. Tett was a sister of H. Mortimer Nelson, well known early day lawyer of Outlook. He lost his life in a tragic drowning at the River edge while attempting rescue of a member of a bathing party. Mr. Nelson had a very fine private library which was taken over by another sister, Mrs. Wm. Porter of Foam Lake.

Doug Walker has been a Bratton resident for some years, being buyer for the Pool elevator and manager of the Co-Op business there.

Matt Harildstad was one of the early and successful farmers of the Bratton district, his wife being a sister of Knut, Charlie and Bert Farden. They are now retired to Outlook, but sons continue the farming.

Lex Cunningham, a farmer west of Macrorie, married a niece of the Sadlers and they farm the land formerly owned by the late Sam Sadler. Lex is also a telephone lineman and the Macrorie Telephone Company has many times been glad of his services during emergencies.

Carl Klam and his brother John were later arrivals in the Macrorie district, both farming south of the village. Carl has now moved to Saskatoon but his son operates the farm. John's wife is the daughter of Mike Bodrug and they presently rent and live on the Philip Columbus farm.

Earling Turvik was for a time one of my closest and very good neighbors, and a great worker. His wife died during those times but he married again and later moved to B.C., where he has since passed on.

His brother Oscar moved onto this same farm and we as neighbors did considerable work and threshing together. His wife, the former May Farden, is a trained nurse and very well known throughout the district for her services in so many homes during times of sickness.

Henry Cole was an early resident, but did not homestead in our district. His wife also is a Farden, and for a few years Henry was a Macrorie grain buyer before purchasing their present farm north-east of the village. Henry died in March, 1966.

Albert Elm is one of the old time homesteaders who has lived close to the village many years. From Norway, and a bachelor, he has worked at various times helping neighbors, and some years ago he worked on my breaking outfit and threshing machine. Albert is very fond of animals, especially horses and still keeps some around even though they are now rather uncommon.



When horses were the farmers source of power.

Jim McIntosh is a veteran of the First War who farmed some years near me. I met him on the station platform one time when I made a trip to Alaska, and sold him a quarter of land to which he and his wife moved. When the Second War broke out Jim again enlisted and was in the Services until the end of hostilities, during which he made several trips to Britain to escort prisoners brought to Canada. He and Mrs. McIntosh finally retired to Stratford, Ontario, after selling their farm and buying a home in the East. He was a blacksmith as well as a soldier and farmer and had a shop on his farm.

Norman Prentice came to our district soon after the coming of the railway, with his wife and small children. They came from Ontario and first lived a brief time at Ardath. They have been very successful farmers and presently live on the Dr. Harrison land north of Macrorie. Of their fourteen children all are married and on their own except the three youngest. Two of the boys were in the Army and Alvin suffered severe injuries. The whole family are noted curing enthusiasts and Norman and his sons and daughters have teamed up to win many trophies in this wonderful game.

The Skaaled family, of Norwegian origin, farmed land east of town many years. The eldest son Tervell, now farms land south of Macrorie and the second son Carl farms close to town. The third son Frederick worked for me and was a really first class man. However about five years ago he lost his life in a car accident. The elder Mr. Skaaled passed on a few years ago, but his wife remains at Macrorie.

Harry Griffith was a tenant farmer from England and rented various farms around Macrorie for many years, but during the depression moved to Manitoba where he has since died. His wife and sons Weldon and Bob reside near Neepawa.

J. J. Robinson was a fairly big farmer of our district at one time. He was handicapped by poor health and also lost a son while at Macrose. His daughter married the Thompsons but she was missing in the city with some of their farm while Jack remains on the farm. His son Doug lives in Macrose. Mr. Robinson's health became so bad he entered a nursing home where he died.

Nedden Bergsma a Dutchman came to Macrose from Lathrup Park and was a friend of Mr. Harrison. He married an English lady Kate Ellis who had been living in Saskatchewan and they owned different farms before settling in the Macrose where they passed some years ago.

Logan Hedges homesteaded in the Williams field some before farming the J. J. Robinson land east of Macrose. He and his sons later farmed Sec. 7-28-8 which is now owned by Norman Inge. Logan's health failed during his late years before his death. His eldest son Henry has farmed near Kralin for some years while the second son Ken his mother and sisters took over the place from the Roberts and operated it until a short time ago. Ken's health caused them to sell and move to Saskatchewan.

Ralph Strach, the noted Saskatchewan naturalist came to Macrose from his father's farm at Abernethy during 1914 as a young fellow suffering from T.H. Contrary to all the usual cases Ralph was interested in bird life more than in the usual sports and games and during at least several winters he kept an unhunted record with well numbered specimens and during the day hunted mostly for some and birds and placed his birds between periods he devoted to study of the weather and what he heard and the record. During the summer he was an excellent amateur football player and he stated that a sportsman that he enjoyed most of the football along Alberta was good football. He was disappointed when he heard of his father's death. He married Miss Jean Harrison from Chicago, Illinois and moved back to Abernethy to again farm. Ralph is now carrying on the place as he used to farm and record at the place. The farm has become well known for Ralph's wild birds and their nesting the normal mammal and some game ducks and some other birds and animals. Taking up photography is connected with his naturalism. He has collected several mammals and birds and a wide variety of a variety of mammals and birds and has been with the Field Museum for several trophies for scientific photography. He is often called on by friends a naturalist with mammals and game birds for North American or European and has collected specimens in a paper for demand for who to get some specimens. Entering in the battle for preservation of the whaling crane he paid his own transportation to San Antonio, Texas and perhaps collected an unusual specimen a man attempt to place it in the county museum province of Texas where it might receive. As Ralph says we have better to nature to learn how to live and also to die. He also treasures the memory and names of those early Macrose days and his Macrose friends have been enriched in knowing Ralph.

Arthur Sack came to Macrose from Lansing Michigan during the spring of 1912 bringing a lot of settlers effects and starting to break the land his father had purchased the year before on Sec. 9-28-8. His father and mother and other members of the family stayed with him for a time before returning south and Arthur's mother run the creek and one lot. He took a horse and a cow to town after sending his land to Mrs. Larson. A good mechanic he had a tractor for cultivation and a threshing outfit and ran his threshing engine the fall of 1917. In 1924 he rented his land on Sec. 9-28-8 to Frank Shaw and moved back to Michigan. Finally trading his

farm north of town to L. F. Nutton. He was back to look after his interest several times and during his trip in 1928 purchased a quilt from the Macrae Ladies Aid which is today a part of possession of Arthur and his wife in their Lansing home. It is made up of 131 squares of cloth each of which were the remnant of a Macrae garment that time stitched in yarn. Mary delectated immensely in the making of that unusual quilt which is still a very attractive souvenir and tribute to Macrae pioneers.

The early Farncroft family consisted of four boys, Tom, Jack, William and Robert. There were also two girls, one became Mrs. Bill Jones and the other Mrs. Tom Ashton. This family all lived south of Macrae in the town of Macrae for many years. All except Robert finally moved to the west coast. They were all strong supporters of the Operation Dismal and all were men. Tom who was very prominent in many local organizations. Robert and his wife are at present very successful farmers near the original Farncroft home and has for some years been Reeve of the town of Macrae. His and Mrs. Farncroft live in Saskatchewan. Their two children, a boy and a girl have a good education and are at the moment away from home with good positions.

Leslie Hightower lived south of the village in town of M. A well known oil and farmer, he was a Divisional member of the town of Macrae for a number of years. During later years his health failed and he recently died of a heart attack.

Phil Coleman was the youngest of three brothers that settled west of Macrae. He and his family were honored in 1935 by his neighbours making a surprise party for them and presenting some gifts. He was also honoured during the past year in a Jubilee write-up in the Saskatchewan Star which read in part: "Mr. Coleman recalls that his first home was a wagon box turned upside down where he lived for three months. During that time eight acres were broken and a sod farm with two stables was built. The stables were for the cow and mare and the other two were for horses and harness for himself. Now he says the farm consists of 24 sections of good wheat land and a fine set of buildings of which they are all proud. The family have lived happily. The children are good Canadians, successful farmers and University graduates."

Bob Casselle was another prominent and successful farmer of Macrae municipality. His wife was Miss Vetch, a sister of Ashton and Harry Vetch who was married west of Brandon. As mentioned previously I met Robert Macrae in the fall of 1911 when we were trying to get our grain hauled in cars for shipment to market. He and his family lived in town for a time when he worked in Allan's hardware store. He finally sold out and bought land near Hiram where he built up a good farm and attractive home. A year ago he was given a good write-up in the Saskatchewan Farmer. Bob and wife have now retired to Saskatchewan.

As mentioned in Chapter Two I became very good friends with the Irish brothers George and Tom McInnes. Tom was the elder and had migrated from the old world to Montreal in 1906 where he worked in a Dry Goods store. George joined him in 1907 and spent two winters and a summer at Montreal before coming west and working on a farm at Hiram for a year. In the spring of 1908 the boys married and via Husley came out and took up homesteads near me in addition to buying Section 14-23-8, which was just north of George's homestead on Sec. 19.

Their actual arrival was on Easter Monday when they reached Hiram and during that week they pitched their tent on their land and began breaking with two men, Ganger and Blue. We put up hay together that year and also were together a lot hauling goods and lumber

from Hanley. They went to Winnipeg that winter and worked in Eatons while I was in Ontario.

The spring of 1907 was very cold and late and I met the McConkeys in Hanley when I was returning to my homestead. They spent three summers on their land, returning to their winter jobs with Eatons each winter. Eventually George bought a store in Stonewall, Man., and a few years later in 1922 Tom joined him. In time they disposed of Section 15, and Tom sold his homestead which was west of the River near Outlook. They both married soon after their homesteading days and their children are all grown now with homes of their own.

Tom died suddenly of pneumonia in March, 1938, but George still runs the store at Stonewall and has his Macrorie homestead. I have had a number of pleasant visits at his lovely Stonewall home and talked over old times. During those homestead days George was something of a poet and wrote some rather good verse similar to Bobby Burns' style of the many composed. I can recall very few, but here is a sample concerning a neighbor who was soon to be married. He lived on rather low land while the lady lived across a valley on higher ground.

*I will lift my eyes unto the hills
From whence thou comest, Fred,
Thy Coming sure the fact implies
That thou wilt soon be wed.*

Another gem from the pen of this prairie bard was inspired by an incident of those times, when a lady was transported by ox team and stoneboat to Westhope store:

*Neither King or Queen were ever seen
In chariot more gay,
Than when we drove around the grove
With Buck and Bright one day.*

Fred Hanslow farmed some years next to town, on the land where Jim Redden has lived many years, this being Fred's homestead. A brother Arthur was also around for some time. Following the death of Fred's wife he left, remarried, and for many years operated a concession in the



Dragging great stones, and other odd work was all done with Indians.

Moose Jaw Tourist Camp. Other brothers were George and Will who later were in the garage business in town. Fred later moved to White Rock, B.C. where he and his son had a hardware store. He died at White Rock some years ago. At one time when Fred was on a visit at Macrorie in the 1930s he and brother George put on an excellent show in the Macrorie Hall and donated the proceeds to the United Church. Fred was very clever with his slight of hand tricks and of course George makes a good clown. This

money was very acceptable at this time as the Church Board were trying to pay off their Church debt.

Roy Lee who is the eldest son of the late Edward Lee is one of the districts prominent young farmers. His wife and Oscar Syvold's wife are sisters. Roy is a real Co-Operator and supports the Wheat Pools and is a Director in the Board of the Co-Op Store as well as being a Director of the Macrorie and Tichfield Credit Union. His wife and family live in Macrorie in winter so the children will be near school.

Raymond Atchison is also a very successful farmer in the Coteau Municipality. His wife is a daughter of Oscar Leppa and a sister of Marti Leppa. Raymond's father is William Atchison who lives a few miles south west of his son's farm.

St. another of our young farmers is Homer Shetterley who farms his late Uncle George Shetterley's land and also has land of his own. His brother Jim works with him and Jim also farms some land near by. These men are sons of the late Saddy Shetterley. Homer is a member of the local telephone board of Directors.

Adolph Roseth and Mrs. Roseth came into our district as some of our first settlers and made their home about four miles North East of town. Mr. Roseth bought a quarter of land on sec. 3-28-24 and moved his buildings onto this quarter where there was always plenty of water flowing from some springs along the hillside that skirted the valley. He kept a lot of livestock - cattle, sheep and hogs. He recently along with Mrs. Roseth made a trip to their native land Norway. When George Houshkov retired from business Adolph bought out George's Garage and Machine business and now resides in the village. He has been a member of the Council of R.M. 236 for some years. He is also thorough by trade and ran a shop in Conquest before coming to the Macrorie district.

Dick Pa frey an Englishman farmed in the Coteau Municipality and was a very successful farmer. He has now retired to Saskatoon.

Ted Boughton also an Englishman was a butcher by trade. He gave up his farming venture and worked at his trade in Saskatoon before moving in Vancouver. His brother Frank took nursing and later went to Rochester Minnesota where he worked as a male nurse in St. Mary's hospital. When I was in Rochester in the spring of 1940 I called at the hospital and had a visit with Frank. It has been said he was a good cook and also was very clever at doing fancy work and sewing.

In writing about Rev. John Perry in the chapter about the Pioneers I neglected to mention that his son Annabel had a son John who is a United Church Minister at Kenosha, Sask. He writes articles for different papers and says in one article he wrote that his ambition is to be like his grandfather. He has recently had a call to a church in R.C. His father's sister Annabel married Harry Rotham a native of Stonewall, Man. where George McTouhey keeps store. They have several children and one girl in particular has made a name for herself by going through for a minister and was for a time a missionary in Africa. This girl must be very popular as they have an organization in the town of Kenosha (where Annabel and her husband live) named The Francis Rotham Circle. At present I understand Annabel and Harry are not very well. Harry is suffering from war wounds and Annabel has not had the best of health for some time.

CHAPTER 10

THE MACROIE STORY

During the years immediately following the rush of homesteaders, like myself westward from Hanley, the development of this part of the West was very rapid. Establishest as a village in 1901 and as a town in 1903, Saskatoon quickly came into a city on July 1st 1906. But our long trips to that city and to Hanley became unnecessary with the founding of Outlook as a village on December 19, 1908 and as a town on November 1st, 1909. Outlook was then the end of steel for the C. P. R. line from Moose Jaw which later linked up with Mackinac, but the South Saskatchewan River prevented completion of the line for a few years until the large railway bridge could be built. Meanwhile the C. N. R. was competing for both the free land grants to colonizing railways, and the hauling of the new golden harvests to the Lake Head, not to mention the considerable tonnage of incoming supplies for settlers and new villages. As a result this railway branched off from Decade on its lower Lake line and headed south and a little east toward the Hills, reaching the new townsite of Macroie during the fall of 1911. It was a most welcome occasion for the settlers west of the River and Macroie was established as a village on February 28th, 1912, remaining as the end of steel for a few years.

Although Macroie prospered during its early years, services such as milling, medicine and dental treatment were supplied to that district by the previously established Outlook, and Macroie remained a village, being situated where it could only hope to be an ordinary prairie farming town. Forty years ago there was a much larger rural population, serving but the dry years and mechanization of larger farms has taken hold of both country and village. The future may prove brighter as the projected South Saskatchewan River Development will be close by and irrigation could change the picture entirely.

While the end of steel Macroie served a large territory to the south and west which was later cut off when the railway was extended south to Dunblane and Rensay, and west to Saskatoon and Anierley.

During those early days there were three general stores, a hardware, drug store, a novelty store, two lumber yards, a barn, two blacksmith shops, a livery stable, hotel, two restaurants, laundry and two garages, in addition to elevators and millstones. During 1918 a two roomed school was built which was later divided in size but the fourth room has been used but little. Although most of the surrounding rural schools have been closed, there are only three rooms presently in operation which is one more than during the Depression.

Now we have only two general stores, there is no hardware store or drug store, the Union Bank closed its branch many years ago, the novelty store, livery stable, a lumber yard and a blacksmith shop, have all disappeared.

For a time the Macroie News was printed at Macroie, but The Outlook paper now serves the district.

Two of the earliest business men of the village were George Casey and Jack Allan who opened the first store, a hardware, under the trade name of Casey and Allan. The building is still standing on Main Street nearest the station, but is no longer a place of business. The partnership lasted some years, but when the railway was built on to Dunblane, Mr

Cater managed a branch store there until the partnership dissolved. Jack Allan continued in business at Macrossie until about 1918 when he sold out and moved to Vancouver. His wife was Clara Kendall and their family pretty well grew up here. Mr. Allan died some years ago but the family remained at the coast.

Fyans and Laughhead who operated a store at Chetook, opened a branch general store in Macrossie during 1912. Sam McLeod was manager of this store for a time but went into business for himself at Dunsmuir, and at Blaine, at B. C. F. and Laughhead went to the Macrossie store to Mr. E. C. Gault during the first World War and the latter had a very successful business until 1944 when due to health and advanced age he sold out to the Macrossie Co. Mr. Gault was a former Presbyterian minister at old Knox Church in Saskatchewan and his photograph hanging on the wall of present Knox Church. After selling out at Macrossie he and his wife retired to Hamburg, B. C. where Mr. Gault has since died but Mrs. Gault and their married daughter Eleanor at B. C. where there. Their son Bill is a geologist with Royalite Oil Company, at Calgary.

J. M. and Bill Long opened a general store during the early days of Macrossie. Bill operating the store while J. M. ran an implement business. Their brother Earl ran a Poolroom and Barber Shop next to the store on the north side of Main Street. He later sold the poolroom and shop to Harry Watson who had been farming near the present town of Kanan. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Watson were Doug, Hilda and Vic, all being very well thought of. Doug was employed in the Bank but lost his life in a tragic drowning. Hilda is the wife of J. M. Redden who has farmed many years at the edge of the village.

During an electrical storm the Watson poolroom was struck by lightning and burned along with the nearby Long store which by then had been sold to A. R. Ferraro. Mr. Watson did not rebuild and within a short time he moved to Radnor in southern Sask. and entered into the hardware business where he continued with son Vic until his death in 1963. Mrs. Watson and Vic still now remain there in business.

Mr. Ferraro rebuilt his general store but shortly after this his wife died, his health failed and he also died within a year or two.

With the arrival of steel in the fall of 1911 the Western Canada Sawmill Yards opened a branch with George Hogarth as manager. Soon after the Beaver Lumber Company opened another yard of which Joe Black became the manager. During the early 1920's the Western Canada Sawmill Yards was amalgamated with the Security Lumber Company under the latter name and successive managers after Mr. Hogarth were Bill Delahunt who became a superintendent, Eddie Trueman who later moved to Metrol and is now clerk of the District Court there, then Harry A. Harvey who had previously bought and near the river here and had been a logger many years. He continued in the lumber yard until 1947 when he retired in rather poor health, was moved to Prince Albert and now resides there in improved health. The next and present lumber yard manager is Les Garrick. Meanwhile during the early years of depression the Beaver Lumber yard was sold to the Security and there has since been only the one yard.

The first backroom that Macrossie was Eddie Davies who had a home-stand near D. McNeill. This business was soon taken over by Peter Ganser who had a shop with a hall overhead. The hall was the only social centre of the village for dances, travelling shows, socials, meetings and even church services, until the school was built in 1916.

Arnold Rostron, an English settler who had been doing blacksmithing with Harry Walton near present Birsay, moved to Macrorie and became a partner with Pete Gancer. But after a few years Gancer sold his interest to Rostron and moved away. Since the hall had become old and no longer useful the building was sold and torn down, part of the lumber being used in construction of the present R. L. Maxfield post office building. Mr. Rostron built a new shop, and with the aid of his wife has carried on and they are still rendering valuable service to the community. Mrs. Rostron is considered possibly the only lady blacksmith in the West, or perhaps all Canada, and is highly skilled in her trade.

One of the first to open a garage at Macrorie in 1921 was George Hanslow and his brother Bill who had come out from England and joined the business as mechanic, being also a cycle expert. George devoted himself to the office and the Massey-Harris machine agency. In spite of a disastrous fire in 1928 these men rebuilt a still better building and carried on during unfavorable times. However Bill moved to White Rock, B.C. during 1937 where he is still operating a cycle and sporting goods store.

George continued the Macrorie business with the help of his son-in-law Bill Thycke until 1953 when ill health forced him to retire, and he, Mrs. Hanslow, and daughter Phyllis and husband and child, moved to White Rock also, where Mrs. Hanslow died recently.



Old sod house still standing on the Webster farm, west of Macrorie.

A second garage was built in the village by Alvin Predeen, but after operating some time, he closed the shop and returned to farming.

The livery barn was built by Albert Ferry in 1912, and he also built the dwelling where the Dan Kinmans now reside. The Ferry's daughter was the first child born in Macrorie. Within a few years the barn was sold to Sam Kinnon who died apparently without a will. The Standard Trusts took over and sold to a Mr. Pempert who soon moved away and the barn was resold to Mr. Keefer, a veterinary surgeon. He also gave up the business and it was resold to Dr. Harrison, V.S., who in time became actively interested in farming. The barn was then resold to Lars Jensen who ran it a few years until his death when it was taken over by W. A. Gillis. Mr. Gillis ran the barn many years until his retirement when his son Roy took over. Predeceased by his wife, Mr. W. A. Gillis died some years ago as a very old gentleman.

When Roy found that horses were giving way to the automobile he tore the barn down and erected a garage in its place. Harold Barrie and Oscar Torvik operated the garage for a time along with the I. H. C. implement agency, but Harold Barrie sold his interest and moved to Rosetown after which the business was carried on by Oscar Torvik and Ken Lee, as of the present time.

The Macross branch of the Union Bank of Canada opened in 1912. The first two or three managers stayed but briefly, followed by a Mr. Thompson, then Mr. Remond who was manager until about 1920 when Mr. Myers took over. His stay was not long after which John Ness came as manager and stayed until the branch closed. The bank building was located on the Main street corner opposite the Hanson garage and unfortunately it burned during the early 1920's after which it was operated in rented quarters. Perhaps if they had not lost their building the bank would still be in operation.

One of the bank employees was R. I. Macfield who had been transferred from Outlook leaving the bank he went into business for himself as a Real Estate and Insurance agent and held the positions of Postmaster, Notary Public, Justice of the Peace and tax agent for Imperial Oil. He was also for a time secretary of the Macross Rural Telephone Company and through the years has served the community in many capacities.

During the early years or up until about 1915 Macross had a Mounted Police detachment and the first constable in charge was Len V. Ralls. While stationed at Macross later about five years later he received a night call from Yorkton to stop three robbers heading that way by car following a series of break-ins. Ralls decided not to end the young constable working with him who had retired for the night and going alone placed his car across a culvert near the edge of town as a road block. The thugs were arrested but the car was burned and apparently Cpl. Ralls advised in the rights of their car to stand on them whereupon they opened fire then turned and sped away. The C.P.R. pumpman living nearby was rescued, the shots and found Cpl. Ralls fatally wounded. By morning doctors checked and a fractured ribcage of Cpl. Ralls had to end the police in a hospital lasting almost a week, yet making roads and through bush country to the north some of the doctors noted his own life following a gun battle in which he was wounded, the other two were captured one being hanged at Regina for the crime while the younger of the two is still serving a life sentence.

The Saskatchewan Elevator Co. built the first elevator in 1912 and a short time later the Canadian Elevator Co. and the International Elevator Co. also built. Then a fourth elevator was constructed by the Co-operative Elevator Co. in 1916. The International elevator burned after a few years and was not rebuilt. Then the Canadian elevator was moved to Juniper siding and the two elevators of remaining eventually changed hands, the Sask. Wheat Pool taking over the C.O.P. elevator and the Seale Grain Co. took over the Saskatchewan elevator.

W. M. Sentner came from Prince Edward Island and worked for Roy Gills for a time but soon went into business for himself opening a butcher shop and general store. He also built a nice home. Unfortunately the store burned but the Sentner farm rented space in the Hanson garage and remained in business some years. Mr. Sentner also had a farm near Lucky Lane which he operated himself leaving most of the store work to Mrs. Sentner and daughter Annie. Finally they sold out moving to Saskatoon where they stayed each winter but returned to the farm in summer. Mrs. Sentner died a year ago.

Annie Sentner married Tommy Holmes, son of the late Isaac Holmes, and Tom has a good position with the Piggott Construction Company of Saskatoon.

For a few years Macross district had the services of medical doctors, the first being Dr. Stewart who came during the First World War.

and ministered to the multitude of his patients during the epidemic of 1918 and 1919. He was followed by Dr Burns who stayed only briefly, and then came Dr T. D. Bennett. He practiced several years, then moved back to Ontario, but returned for another few years. During the district father said he located a more extensive practice with hospital at Verdun where he is still active and highly regarded. During a season or two Doc was an effective fence-mender for the Macrone hockey team, with his ample weight and unscathed without for those who suffered frostbite while playing in the open air rink. After Doc Bennett left there was a Dr. Anderson for a short period.

I have been loaned a Church History written by Rev. Maxfield that covers the activities of the early Church very well and I am having this printed in the succeeding chapters, and will not go into this at any length here. At different times we have been without a minister and have nearly always had an active Sunday School. Our people have been mostly of the Protestant faith and have supported either the United or Lutheran Churches. The Seventh Day Adventists have a large number of members south of Macrone and they have a very fine Church there, being a member of the old Methodist Church and sister of the United Church. I am naturally more interested in the United Church but I do not think we are the only Church and have the greatest regard for the other sects that have been working in our district.

The Lutherans have a fine church and manse at Macrone and since a large percentage of the district residents are of Scandinavian origin there is a strong congregation. For many years they were served by Rev. Hjortnes but he found it necessary to retire because of ill health and has since passed on. He was followed by Rev. Mikkelsen for a few years until the coming of the present Rev. Friesland. Both the Lutheran and United Churches were built about the same time and are fine improvements to the village.

Our first station agent was Mr. Whitmore who remained until well after the railway was extended further south and west. He was followed briefly by a French Canadian and many other agents until the arrival of Harry Schumann who stayed a number of years. He was much interested in agriculture and had pamphlets printed for him of the advantages of growing sweet clover. Mrs. Schumann died after some years residence. Their daughter Hanch started to work in Saskatoon about this time. Harry remained before coming Macrone at the time of his retirement. He moved to a farm which he owned near Saskatoon and has since passed on. Blanch is now employed with the C. N. Telegraph at Saskatoon. The next agent after Mr. Schumann was a Mr. Dewar who moved after a short time and is now a N. R. agent at Delta. He was followed by Mr. Russell, a veteran of the First War who with his family is now at Burlington. Next came Ted Haupt and family who moved to Hagar and has since gone to northern B.C. followed by Ruddy Bent whose wife was an English lady he had met while overseas. They moved to Saskatoon and the present agent is Mr. Naggs who has now served about three years.

The Macrone Hotel was built by Woodward and Wilson with Wilson managing the business a few years. Billie Smoker Wilson was a good baseball catcher and played considerably when around. Before coming West he worked in the family of the McArthur, Stone and Range Co. at London Ont. During those first years the hotel business was very good as many people came to Macrone from a distance and stayed overnight.

The partners sold out to William Higham and Bill Wilson bought the hotel at Dandara which he ran many years. Higham only stayed at

Macrorie briefly then sold to Joe Carey from Winnipeg who soon took sick and died. It was about then that prohibition closed the bars, and as a result the hotel remained closed and idle. Then it was purchased by Dan Kineman and his father in law Mr. Heier. Dan also bartered and part of the hotel was next rented to R. L. Magfield as combined office and postoffice. The building was next rented to George Thompson in the late 20's and finally sold in 1939 to William Corbett. Following a wife he was able to open Licensed Premises for the sale of beer but in 1945 sold to Ken Hodges who was assisted by his mother and a sister Nancy in operating the business. During 1953 they sold to the present owner Mr. Powers.

A Chinese Restaurant has been serving Macrorie steadily since the very early days. Many Chinese have been associated with this business but the present proprietor was one of the first to arrive in Macrorie.

There was a Chinese Laundry which operated for about fifteen years located on the corner opposite the Hotel to the north. There was a very heavy rain during the summer of 1916 which flooded that portion of the village where the laundry and the Hanslow Garage later stood. However that drawback was overcome within a year or two when a large ditching machine was engaged to lay a drainage to a lower area west of the tracks. About 1928 the laundry was sold and the Hanslows acquired the property, following which the building was removed.

A Mr. Pete Hanley ran a restaurant in the early days near where the present Stevenson house stands. He did a thriving business for some time when the town was serving a large territory. When I operated the Canadian Elevator from 1912 to 1916 I usually ate dinner at Pete's Restaurant.

Peter Jensen was one of the best known Macrorie citizens for many years. He built his home north of the Security Lumber yard and he and Mrs. Jensen had a family of three boys and one girl. The eldest son Albert taught school but later ran an elevator for the Pool at Arborfield. The second son Dick farmed before joining the armed services during the second war and now farms again near Macrorie. The youngest son Norman served in the Air Force during the war and is now employed with a drug company in Saskatoon while the girl Thelma is also in the City doing office work. The drug business which Peter Jensen operated was finally sold to Elmer Kersey but Peter continued his meat operating and performed other work until his health failed somewhat. A few years ago he and Mrs. Jensen moved to the City where Mrs. Jensen now resides, but Peter passed on shortly after the move.

Elmer Kersey also remained in the drug business many years. He and Mrs. Kersey had a family of three boys and a girl. The daughter Lois married Gordon Peachy and they are farming near Hutton. However Mr. and Mrs. Kersey and boys have all moved away from the district.

William Barrie and family lived in Macrorie many years. Mrs. Barrie was a sister of the late Harry Britnell who farmed southwest of the village. Harry was the father of the well known George Britnell who has served on Royal Commissions and is now a professor at the University of Saskatchewan. The Barries raised a family of five boys and two girls. Mr. Barrie was for a time agent for the Searle Cream Company and was also Secretary-Treasurer of the Macrorie Grain Growers Association. Mrs. Barrie was very active in church work and served for a time as superintendant of the United Church Sunday School. Their eldest son George died while quite young. Albert and Harold now live at Rosetown. Billy works for the C.N.R., and Cecil lives in Dunblane working for the P.F.R.A. The

eldest girl Laura married John Hill and they farm just south of the village. Mary married Arvin Presture after he came back from service in the Forces and they live in Macrorie.

William Lowe and wife were among the early well known citizens. Their daughter Grace married Ben Calloway and they have three sons. Vernon lives in Saskatoon who is blind and Howard ate rank in the C.S. This family is very gifted in music and while they were all in Macrorie they made up a fine farm orchestra and contributed much to all town entertainment. Mr. Calloway was Post Office agent many years and on his retirement from that position the Post presented him with a gold watch in appreciation of faithful service. He had also acted as Imperial Oil agent and still has that business assisted by Clinton Harvey (son of Fred). Mrs. Calloway's parents passed on some years ago.

Dr. Harrison V.S. came to Macrorie in 1916 and purchased the livery barn from Mr. Keefler and also bought a house that was being built by Lars Jensen. He was very active in all community work and was one of the principal supporters in getting the Change Hall built. Both he and Mrs. Harrison were good workers in the Church and Agricultural Society. For a time the Doctor operated a business at Fort Assiniboine that up and bought land just north of Macrorie to which he moved and sold the livery barn to Lars Jensen and Sothen Bergstrom is housed by a home house. The Harrison's later moved to Longport and from there to Saskatoon. The son Clarence worked for a time with the International Harvester Co. but later moved to Ontario where he is associated with a building company as an engineer near Sudbury. Margaret the daughter married Bert Jamieson and they reside with the Doctor in the City. Mrs. Harrison having died recently.

Other early citizens were the Wm. Bel. family the Larsons the Solbergs and the Ranes family. Wm. Bel. was Massey Harris agent and engaged in other work. His wife was active in church and community work but they moved away many years ago and now live in Regina. The Larson brothers were around for a long time. Tom being a carpenter who lived with his mother in the house now owned by Mrs. Bergstrom. Tom worked with Mike Deering when they built my barn in 1927. His brothers ran a harness and shoe repair shop but moved away some years ago. Andrew Solberg lived in the house now owned by Lillian Peterson. He worked on the dray for Pete Jensen and did other work around town. With his family he eventually moved to Wadena Sask. His son Hartrick worked for me on the farm two summers. Jack Ranes was a carpenter and general laborer in addition to having a homestead west of town. His wife also kept boarders. They with sons Frank and Luke left Macrorie many years ago.

It would be impossible to name all the people who have lived in the village and especially since 1912 as some stayed only a short time. This is only an attempt to mention those who were better known and remained with us the longest.

Willard Yahn after years of gas engine experience turned from farming to garage work in town. With his wife the former Ethel Staven son, he lived in the Larson house for some time before moving to Calgary where he has since passed on. Willard was a fine piano player and also played the organ many years for the United Church. He served in the Armed Forces during the last war.

George Yahn and wife Sadie may also be regarded as Macrorie citizens though they have resided just out of the village on their farm, due to the many years during which Sadie taught in the town school before

and after her marriage George and Willard farmed together a considerable time and during his younger years George brought fame to himself and Macrorie by his very capable baseball pitching both for the home team and others who sought his services. During the horse farming days of the depression and later he has had a rough go of it with hay fever. Son Graydon largely carries on the farm work, while a second son Dean attended University, then obtained employment with the Sask. Power Corporation and is now in charge of a district for that Corporation.

The Grindel family lived many years just out of the village limits, on the corner of the Geo. Yahn farm, with Mr Grinde, doing various types of work. A son Arthur was a salesman at Outlook some years, while another son Maurice clerked in Gallup's store for a time and later for the Co Op, as told elsewhere.

Fred Harvey and family have been long time residents of Macrorie. Fred started a shoe and harness repair shop in a portion of the hotel, then moved to a front portion of the livery stable and later purchased a building on Main Street where he carried on until retirement some years ago. His shop has now been moved to his house location. Mrs. Harvey passed on this last spring.



Mrs. Grace Harvey who
was on our Cook Car for
many seasons

One of the first agents for the Co-Operative elevator was a Mr Creighton, who was followed by Johnny Hogarth for a long period. He married a local girl, Annie Stevenson, and now resides at Moosomin.

Mike Doering and family were among the early residents who came to the village during the First War. Mike was a carpenter but would also take on most any job and was thus a very useful servant to the community. The family of Mr. and Mrs. Doering consisted of two girls and two boys. The eldest son Alvin is a C.N.R. station agent while son Bill served in the U.S. Forces during the last war and now lives in California. Eleanor was a telephone switchboard operator who later married Louie Provost and lived at Tessier for a time, but died some years ago. Edna married Pete Deminuk and they live in Saskatoon. Mr. and Mrs. Doering moved to Saskatoon about ten years ago, but both have since died.

Jack Kellgren married Ada Gills, sister of Roy, and Jack was employed with Roy for some time when first coming to Macrorie. Later he had

a machine business at Eston, then moved to Regina for a time, but they are now living retired in Macrorie. Their daughter Donna married and is living in Calgary.

Neil Black and family came to the village from Carmen, Manitoba. Neil had been a farmer and also a blacksmith, and worked at that trade here for some years. They had a family of two boys and a girl, Mary taught school in the village a few years, then went to B.C. where she married "J.D." the eldest son works for the C.N.R. in Saskatoon, while Roderick lives in B.C. Neil died many years ago but is survived by Mrs. Black.

Alex Murray retired from the farm years ago and lived in Macrorie until passing on a year ago at age 91. Mrs. Murray, son Sandy and daughter Elizabeth still reside in town.

Isaac Kendall and wife moved into the village many years ago, and for some time performed the caretaking of the school. Of later years they just lived retired and looked after their grandson Richard. Mrs. Kendall died recently.

Knut Rogness has also lived in town, retired for some time.

"Dad" Andrews was a retired resident some years until his death, following which the same house was occupied by George Patterson, also in advanced years, but he eventually entered a nursing home and there passed on.

Sydney Bergstra and wife moved into town years ago, but Sid passed on about five years ago. Mrs. Bergstra has stayed on in her home.

George Delparte and family lived in Macrorie for some years, spending the winters in the village and summers on the farm until his death about fifteen years ago. Mrs. Delparte and children continued the arrangement, but later Mrs. Delparte married George Bagshaw and they live at Birsay. Her eldest boy Lloyd farms both north and south of Macrorie.

As to railway Section men there have been a number I do not recall, but for many years there was Mike Logown, and since, over another long period to the present is Steve Serman. Steve and his wife have a family of three boys and two girls, the sons all working for the C.N.R. and the girls married and away.

Our first druggist was Mr. Krutzweiser, a married man with one daughter, who had his store in the Fernier building. He sold out to Mr. Campbell who stayed only briefly. Following this Jack Allan ran a general store for a short time in the same building until moving to the coast.

A Mr. Crawford also had a drug store a few years in a building attached to the Gills and Johnson store, which also served as his residence. However as Crawford and his wife were well up in years they soon moved away.

As mentioned Lars Jensen was a one time owner of the livery stable and was quite an enterprising citizen for a number of years in addition to having a homestead west of town. But his health was not good and he died rather young.

Bill Carson was a barber in Harry Watson's pool room for some time. His wife was a very good singer and their son is now well known in

city music circles. They moved to Saskatoon and B.H. barbered in the King George hotel for many years.

The men who have lived in Macrorie since the early days and still retain their original businesses are Arnold Rostron, Roy Gillis and R. L. Maxfield. Arnold Rostron and wife have raised a family of five girls who are all married and away but one daughter Fanny is the wife of Doug Fosgren and they live in town, in the old Emil Johnson house.

Roy Gillis lost his wife Caroline many years ago, and now with daughter Grace Marie continues to operate his general store. Grace is also secretary-treasurer of the village. Son Allan is employed with the C N R.

R. L. Maxfield and his first wife came to Macrorie in 1917 and raised a family of three boys and one girl. The eldest son Kenneth is with the R C A F and presently is serving in France. Ronald lived in Saskatoon some years but is now a building inspector at Edmonton. The youngest son Stewart lives in R C. Daughter Jean married Himer Edstrom and resides at Danmore. Mrs. Maxfield died comparatively young and R. L. married his housekeeper and long time acting postmistress Minnie Cooper who also passed on three years ago. He has now married Mrs. Arthur Jones of Nanimo, B C.

Mr. and Mrs. Palmer came to the village some years ago when Mr. Palmer was engaged as grain buyer for the Pool at Juniper. He is now retired. Mrs. Palmer is news correspondent for the Outlook paper and their daughter Florence works at the Post Office.



Stampede held at Macrorie about 1910

Dan Kinsman has lived in Macrorie many years. A barber by trade, and briefly a hotel man, he likes farming and livestock better. He married Miss Bryan, daughter of a Danmore farmer, and in addition to snipping livestock in past years, he has acquired farm land near town which he still operates. Dan and Mrs. Kinsman raised a family of one son and two daughters. Their son Bennett was killed while serving in the Air Force during the last war. The girls are married and living in Toronto.

Henry Cole, a former grain buyer who turned to farming, retired to live in town with his wife and son Warren, but recently passed on.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Coates also live in the village having purchased the house formerly occupied by Peter Jensen and Elmer Kersey.

Johnny Wilson and wife and family live in town during the winter. They bought Harry Harvey's home when he retired.

Bud Prentice is the present drayman who also farms the former Moen homestead and is married to Violet, daughter of the late Jack Kendall. Bud is a son of Norman Prentice who now lives on the Dr. Harrison farm north of town, and other sons are Alvin and Albert. The latter lives in the W. A. Gilis house and farms just north of the village.

The Ken Corbells also live in town, Mrs. Corbett being the former Marjorie Odegard, daughter of Oscar Odegard who farms between Macrorie and Outlook. They have a family of two boys, Ken and his brother Alton farm the Corbett land east of town.

Jack Perry lives where the Wm. Barrie family resided, and is married to Lucille Torvik, they have a son and daughter.

Wilbert Chambers followed Ben Calloway as Buyer for the Pool and he and family lives in the former Harry Watson house where Dr. Bennett also lived.

Adolph Roseth purchased the Hanslow Garage and home a year ago. Martin Roseth, a son, married a daughter of Ed Lee and they live in the former Jack Allan house which had been purchased earlier by Mr. Lee.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Lee and some of the family lived in the Allan house for some time until the parents passed on. Another daughter, and sister of Ken Lee, married Johnny Wilson.

Ken Lee married a Miss Nixon who was employed in the Bank of Montreal at Outlook. They live in the former United Church manse which was sold by the United Church when the minister started to live in Dunblane instead of Macrorie.

Robert Hill has retired from farming and lives in town.

Mrs. Skallid also lives retired in a house just north of the lumber yard. Her son Carl Skallid also lives in the village and farms land near town. He is married and has four children.

Mr. and Mrs. Neshum live on the property where Fred Wood lived just north of the Lutheran Church. Nels farms his land which is near the river, northeast of town. His son Norris goes to school and also helps on the farm. Their daughter Jean married Dick Tochuk and they live at Tichfield. Another daughter Marion married Willard Ross and they live at Lucky Lake.

Jack Cooper and wife lived at Macrorie some years. He was buyer for the Searle Grain Company and a good citizen in general, being a member of the United Church choir, an enthusiastic curler and president of the Club several years, and a willing helper in other community matters. While of more delicate health and unable to participate in various activities, his wife was also interested in social work. They now live near Vancouver where Jack is following his trade of carpenter.

Harold Sadler and wife have a farm west of town but live in the village. They have a house and small piece of land formerly owned by Bill Sentner. They have a family of three girls.

Les Carrick who succeeded Harry Harvey as manager of Security Lumber Co. purchased and lived with his wife in the Miss Doering house. Their daughter Jean is training as a nurse while the son Glendale has worked briefly for the Security Lumber Co. Les has also served as village councilor and Overseer, is secretary-treasurer for the Macrorie Rural Telephone Co.

There have been many school teachers since the Macrorie school was built most noteworthy of which is Mrs. George Yahn who taught many years and Mr. Conrad who was also principal a long time. He served overseas during the last war but is now teaching again at Lloydminster. At present the teachers are Mr. and Mrs. Labountain and Miss Stevenson.

There were also a number of Telephone operators and linemen but for 23 years we had Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham and recently Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Turvik served for eight years. The Cunninghams had two children, Norma who married Clarence Blackwell and lives in Dunsmuir and Clayton who married a Miss Shields and lives in Saskatoon where he is a druggist. Fred and Mrs. Cunningham are now with the Conquest Rural Telephone Co. Oscar and Mrs. Turvik recently gave up the telephone work and are in the house where Roy Henn published the Macrorie News. They have a family of three boys. Our present telephone operators are Mr. and Mrs. Mackenzie.

The Sack Elevator and the later Searle Company has been run by a number of buyers, the first being Herb Neale. William Barris, Henry Cole and E. W. Reynolds each had a turn in this elevator and the present operator is Mr. Wood who is married with two children and resides in a house built by Bill Long. This house has had many owners but has been recently purchased by the Searle Grain Company.

The Co-Operative store has Mr. Offler as manager, a family man who lives in the Bill Senter house now purchased by the Co-Op.

A Mr. Bond who works for the C. N. R. section lives with his family in the Roy Galla house while Roy and his daughter live in rooms attached to the store.

With further reference to doctors it may be noted again that the early residents of Macrorie village were served by Dr. Redden of Outlook prior to the coming of Dr. Stewart. Dr. Burns, Dr. Bennett and Dr. Anderson. When the village was finally without a doctor the citizens persuaded Dr. Tufts of Outlook to open an office here and for several years he came over once a week or sent his assistant doctor. Their office was in the building then owned by the village but now the property of Oscar Turvik. However in recent years the doctor does not come to the district except in emergency. With the Hospital Services plan in operation most people now go to Outlook or other hospitals for medical attention.

During Macrorie's early days there was a very active Orange Lodge and there were others up and down the line and the way to Saskatoon. July 12th became a popular date for their celebrations and community sport days. At Macrorie numerous social events were held and they worked hard in other ways to raise money for a good hall which was finally built and opened in 1910. In addition to the many dances, odd time tea socials and travelling shows the hall was also used for all public meetings and church services. For a number of years Macrorie was on a Chataqua circuit which provided a fine series of lectures and variety entertainment lasting three of to six days each year. They were first held in large tents but the Orange Hall was also used. The Chataqua was a great success until hard times came along when it was then impossible to sell sufficient tickets to make up the guarantee which a local committee had to make. The discontinuing of the Chataqua and also the Agricultural Annual Fair was a real loss to the community.

A branch of the Canadian Legion was formed at Macrorie during 1944, the first President being J. R. Graham, the first Vice-President Chas.

Seymour and first Secretary, W. Blundell. The Legion also has a hall which is the old Goodwill school moved into town and located near the Town Hall. Remembrance Day, services and social evenings are held each year. The 1955 officers are: President, Karl Lammers, Vice-President, Warren Cole, Secretary-Treasurer, John Perry.

There has been a strong Masonic Lodge in the village since the early settlement. Across from the post office on Main Street they put in a full basement onto which they moved the old Bratton school building, and it has been renovated to make a very nice hall.

The present officers are, Les Cunningham, Worshipful Master, Norman Ingell, Senior Warden, Marvin Roseth, Junior Warden, and E. L. Maxfield, Secretary. I was not able to get the names of the first officers of this Lodge, but Harry Williams, Dr. A. G. Hopkins, E. A. Palmer, George Hopkins and Roy Gillis and of course many others have been active with the Macrosie Masons for many years. Also the late H. E. Britnell and Wm. Harris were active members.

At the present time Macrosie is a thriving village, and in addition to its many dwellings has the following places of business. Two grain elevators, the Imperial Oil bulk station, C. N. station and Section house, two general stores, two garages, three halls (these being the Town Hall, the Masonic Hall and the Legion Hall) the school, telephone office, hotel, blacksmith shop, Post Office and real estate and insurance office combined, lumber yard, restaurant. There are also the curling and skating rinks in the Agricultural Building which is also used for agricultural purposes when needed, and the two churches serving the spiritual needs of the community.

The completion of a Power Line to the village in 1952 has added greatly to the attractiveness of Macrosie as a place to live and nearly all the residents have availed themselves of the use of electric lights and electric energy for other necessary purposes.

CHAPTER II

STRANGE AND UNUSUAL HAPPENINGS

In the summer of 1907 I was helping the McIntoshes do some work on Tom's homestead near the present site of Retakora siding when we noticed a raft coming along the river bank that had no doubt come down with the water from the mountains during June when the river is at its high stage and I went down and caught the plank in this raft as it would only float away at some later time. We were carrying one of these planks from the waters edge to our wagon when in some way I slipped and lost my hold on the plank. As we had not taken time to stop back the spikes they were of sliding out a long way through the plank. As it happened George had his head between one of the planks and one of these rusty spikes went right through his head. I grabbed the plank right away and got George free. He managed to get to the wagon and I drove the men back to the tent. His brother was there and when we were managed to fix up his head as best we could I was greatly worried as I felt the wound could be a serious one and the nearest doctor was at Homer, which was at least 50 miles away. However, the home treatment we were able to give proved effective and in about three days George was a right.

One afternoon about a week after this we noticed a fire just north of our tent at the McIntosh place. He had been doing some work near his stable and the smoke from there so that he had made a mistake with some straw so the smoke would keep the men away. He said a white man came along and took enough fire from his stable to set fire to the straw around his stable. At the time we got there I was too late to save his stable and I was not with it at that time it included his own. The fire was creeping over the pasture towards his shack but we were able to stop this at the time George had died. This the fellow is the man who worked with me at the McIntosh farm and now lives in England.

In those early days when my nearest town was 50 miles away the Mounted Police from Hanley and the out us very often. They were a ways dressed in their red coats and made themselves at home and any trouble they were doing getting there I was rather amused. One day when I was driving with the Nicks and he came back and I saw as I these Indians were looking after things. It seems that just before this time one of the settlers had written to the command of the Mounted Police and told the Chief Returning to them the great them Mounted Police. It seemed to me that he perhaps thought them very large men because of their appearance and also their ability to enforce the law.

We also had the same trouble with vermin that they seem to have in all new settlements. When I was going to Hanley very often in the summer of 1908 the hotels and sleeping places were badly infested with bed bugs. I could not sleep at nights but noticed how pests would not bother me much until after I put out the light. I tried leaving the light on a night and that seemed to help for a few nights. Then they got bolder and I could see them coming out of cracks in the walls when the light was on. Then I tried to keep my bed away from the wall as they could not climb up the bed posts. However, they soon discovered they could get at me by crawling out on the ceiling and dropping down on the bed. It was certainly hard to get any rest. Then I consequently saw where a person would have to stay in a bed where the occupant of the night before had left some very unwelcome beasts called grey backs. It was a big job to get rid of these.

Having been asked several times about hunting experiences, I will

mention about one time we were following a deer track in the sand hills on the east side of the river. We evidently were getting fairly close to the deer. He must have heard us for he started to backtrack. He did this so cleverly that we did not notice what he had done until we had followed the double tracks for many rods. Then we noticed, when we retraced our steps, that the deer had indeed so completely backtracked and putting his feet in the same foot marks for perhaps a quarter of a mile and then starting off in another direction as fast as he could run. We decided it was no use trying to catch him that day. One other fall day when my sister Pearl was out to visit me, I hired Harvey and I planned a goose hunt. The geese had been feeding just north of West Star where we got up very early this morning and were there long before day light as the geese came up from the river to feed at daylight. We of course had to get pits dug so we could be out of sight and get as close as out. We were all ready when the geese came. Of course when they saw the decoys they came right over our pits. They came so thick and slow for a while that all we had to do was shoot as fast as we could. Although we had only common double barreled shot guns, we carried away so many geese that we filled our bags to capacity. When we got home and laid them out on the kitchen floor we had seventeen birds. We had many exciting goose hunts before there were too many settlers. In later years the hunters were too impatient to wait for the geese to settle in one feeding area and the hunting was not so easy.

During 1910 Fred Harvey caught a very large fish in the River just east of old Westhope postoffice. It was a meat eight feet long, the head measuring 18 inches and it weighed close to 100 pounds. When dressed there was approximately 70 pounds of good eating flesh. Although it remained unidentified at the time, it would now seem it must have been a sturgeon. The Harveys did considerable fishing, catching ling and pickerel in the early spring and goldfishes during the summer.

In the spring of 1915 when I was working at the Canadian Elevator a trainload of seed grain arrived at Marston following the crop failure of 1914. As the locomotive was doing a bit of car-shunting I noticed two boys, Frank Roney and a younger Etheridge out around the tracks, having crawled through under the cars near the elevator and walked north along the west side of part of the standing train. Evidently they again crawled under those cars to get down town as the train suddenly moved, and the Etheridge boy was caught crushing off both legs. The shock proved too great and he died that same day. The parents gave up farming a short time later and moved to Saskatoon.

Another early day tragedy occurred about 1906 on the East Half 1-27 8 where the two Peterson brothers lived in a small shack. When a neighbor called one day and finally opened the door after getting no response to his knocks he found that both the Petersons had been asphyxiated by coal gas from their stove.

On March 26th 1919 a C. N. R. passenger train coming into Ardath from the north, jumped the rails, continued going across the level frozen ground and headed for an elevator and its office. The office was demolished and the locomotive crashed into the elevator and did not stop until it partly emerged on the far side. The wheat from the bins poured into the cab of the engine, smothering the engineer and fireman and also a returned soldier who was riding with them. When the locomotive was pulled out the elevator collapsed. I saw the engine after it had been hauled to a Saskatoon siding and it was indeed a sorry looking sight. Apparently none of the passengers were seriously injured.

At another time when the Saskatoon train was coming out, it was noticed that one of the coaches had caught fire supposedly from a locomotive spark. It was impossible to extinguish the fire as the coach was shunted to a siding and left to burn.

During the summer of 1920 Margaret the small daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred McKay of Ankerley strayed away from home. The parents had gone to the Saskatoon Fair leaving her with a hired girl and it seemed the girl missed her parents and slipped away alone. When word of the missing child spread, scores of people came from miles around to help in the search which lasted many days. However no trace of the child has ever been found.

A strange and tragic crossing accident at Marquette occurred on a stormy cold day during the winter of 1931-32. On this day John Rodrig William Negreuch a Negreuch boy with Oscar Pearson and his wife were coming to Marquette from the west in a covered jumper. As they were facing the storm it appears they did not see the train coming as they approached the railway crossing south of the station. As the train was late and perhaps the occupants of the jumper thought it had passed by some time earlier. It would seem on the horses did not notice the on-coming train until they were right in its path as they were a ways very much afraid of trains. Pearson then swung away from it at the last moment but it was evident the train struck throwing one horse to each side of the track and the covered cutter was hurled against a large post of the track way fence to the west of the track smashing the cutter and flattening the fence. John Rodrig and the Negreuch boy were killed and Oscar and Mrs. Pearson were badly injured. Mr. Negreuch escaped unharmed. Both horses were so badly injured they had to be destroyed. Mike Dearing was getting a load of wood that day from west of the lake with his team and sleigh and had trouble getting his out over the track and was worried because he knew the train was due. It was on returning to town later that he learned why the train was held up missing.

During the summer of 1907 a small cyclone struck the former Reet Metcalf farm and carried the barn away. I had seen this funnel shaped cloud approaching that day but apparently only an equal down to do any damage at all that day. Two cows were living on the farm at the time and his boys Ted and Ken were inside the barn when the storm struck. It was raining out a evening and they were taking harness off the horses after the day's work. The cows and horses were a fed or half fed just as the barn began to blow and the boys escaped with because they managed to dig out under a large grain storage box sitting in one of the stalls which prevented the barn from coming in on them. Parts of the barn were carried half a mile away into a field to the east. A shed to the northeast and the house to the south on opposite sides of the barn, were undamaged although the house was subjected to severe stress and barely escaped.

During the winter of 1904-5 two Saskatoon men set out by car via Strongford and Lorneburn to reach Huron where a John Deere Implement Day was to be held under the direction. Their intention was to cross the Saskatchewan River at near the P. E. & A. camp located at the testing site for the proposed South Saskatchewan dam. If this was they would have a good road from the camp to Lorneburn and on to Huron. But apparently their car stalled out on the river during a storm which came up and they found themselves stranded in the early darkness. Being dressed in light clothes, low shoes, and only hats, and thus unable to spend the more than forty below zero night in the car they began walking back toward houses

they had passed some miles away up on the level plains east of the river. On reaching the first house which contained stoves and furniture but was not occupied they apparently made no effort to enter but kept going eastward along a road possibly to reach a lighted home some distance further on. In any event they did not reach it and both men perished in the cold within a half mile of each other.

Following the tragedy considerable publicity was given to safety precautions which should be observed by motorists during winter travel, in addition to equipment such as chains, shovels and gasoline treated to avoid frozen gas lines, every traveller was urged to carry plenty of extra warm clothing, emergency food and perhaps even canned heat etc.

Our Jubilee Year of 1956 saw a plenty of unusual storms and events. On May 10th a very severe snow storm hit Saskatoon and a large surrounding area. The temperature was such that the wet snow and sleet stuck to everything such as trees, telegraph, telephone and power wires, buckling up weight until wires or poles broke down. The wires became coated until they were as large as a man's arm and the combined weight of them broke down miles of poles. There was also severe damage to trees when large branches broke under the weight of ice. The city of Saskatoon was completely sealed for a day or two and ask of power cut off even radio broadcasting and caused a great deal of inconvenience to home owners and businesses not only in the city but many miles distant. At Macrorie the storm was not so severe but some damage was done especially to the telephone lines.

On June 10th a near tragedy occurred at the Riverhurst ferry. Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Roemer, William Allen, all of the Rock Point district, with a visiting lady and her two year old son, had a narrow escape from drowning when the engine of the car failed and they drove over the end of the ferry into the Saskatchewan River. Fortunately the body of the car was sufficiently watertight to make the car buoyant and prevent it from immediately plunging to the bottom of the river. The ferryman, Mr. Bishop, acted very quickly and with the aid of his boat managed to rescue the five terrified people through a window just before the car sank into deep water. Mr. Bishop's quick and heroic action will no doubt receive recognition.

During early August the Macrorie district and an area west and east suffered the worst hail storm in memory. Windows were broken, roofs damaged, the crops flattened and there was some flooding of land from the heavy rain that followed. The grain had been nearly ready to harvest and although some farmers were able to salvage something, many of the crops were completely destroyed.

On December 12th one of the worst blizzards in history struck most of the province. Fortunately storm warnings were broadcast by radio and a great many people avoided going out into the storm even though they were stranded away from home. Many school children from country homes had to spend the night with friends elsewhere. Those who did attempt to travel on the highways were in many instances stranded and there was some loss of life in various parts of the province and a great number of narrow escapes that would have proved more tragic except for the fairly moderate temperatures. Some livestock was also lost. One man near Dinmore got lost going from the house to the barn and was found later lying dead in the snow.

No doubt all of our settlers when coming to the prairies were thrilled with the beauty of our prairie sunsets which at times are very

beautiful indeed. The northern lights are beautiful too, but somewhat wierd looking at times when they shoot across the sky from north to south. I understand that still further north they make a rustling noise when they shoot across the sky. Then there are the mirages—when objects in the distance stand up in the sky. From where I lived near the river I could see the elevators in the towns on the C.P.R. line running from Outlook to Moose Jaw on certain days even though they were 20 miles away and there was high land in between.

Several stories that have been written about the early Western settlements tell about the millions of buffalo that used to roam the prairies and also tell about the business later on of gathering up buffalo bones and shipping them to market. I was impressed with what an old timer told me when I was coming west on a bus this year. This man a Mr. Yeall who said he now lives in southern Manitoba, told me that one time there were whole trainloads of these bones heading eastward across the prairie. On this same bus trip I met a Mr. and Mrs. John Laboldus from Virdna, Sask. When in conversation with them I learned that they had been taken by air this fall to Ottawa where Mrs. Laboldus and a wreath on behalf of all the mothers in Canada who had lost sons in the last war. They said they raised a family of 12 children and three sons were killed at the war. Then no doubt the people around Macrorie will for a long time remember Tom Salanen the homesteader from Finland who worked as a shipbuilder in Finland before coming to America. He worked for Philip Columbus one fall and also did very well with his farming venture. He took a notion he would build a boat and go back to Finland by way of the Saskatchewan river and Hudson Bay. Wm. Sentner says he helped Tom haul out materials for this boat from Macrorie. As it happened he evidently got short of money before he got this boat finished and hauled to the river. His venture was not entirely successful, although he did make a sort of a ship in sections, parts of which can now be seen in Victor Markkanen's farmyard a few miles south of Macrorie. There was a writeup about this in the Saskatoon Star Phoenix recently. He spent so much time working on this after he got short of cash and without proper food he finally was taken to hospital where he died.



This picture taken in 1911 at Macrorie. Our first car, a Dodge. Harold Metcalf, Weldon Griffiths, Joe Cohoon, Ed Dundas.

CHAPTER 12

CONCLUSION

Macromie district has had bumper crops and all sorts of annual yields down to failures. Main cause of lighter yields has been drouth, but there has also been loss from drifting soil, rust, grasshoppers, cut worms and wire worms, none of which give much trouble when there is plenty of moisture. Hail has of course caused damage in some seasons. The following is a crop summary by years, but it must be kept in mind these estimates applied generally, and to my own immediate area. Taking the district as a whole there would a ways be individual farmers with poorer or better yields according to his luck in getting extra showers or having some land that was above average in its state of cultivation.

1909—a very good crop.
1910—too dry, and crops not very good.
1911—a good average crop.
1912—a very good crop, but not as even as 1911
1913—mostly a very good crop, but too dry north of town.
1914—very dry; crop almost a failure
1915—bumper crop, some heads of wheat had 10 rows.
1916—good average crop but some hail and rust
1917—too dry; crop much below average
1918—too dry; crop below average
1919—very dry, crop throughout district very poor
1920—less than average, crop very weedy
1921—less than average crop, season too dry
1922—less than average, still not enough moisture.
1923—bumper crop, lots of wheat that fall
1924—very dry, crop light
1925—very good crop, but some hail in spots.
1926—fair crop but less than average
1927—real good crop but poor harvest weather
1928—bumper crop, lots of wheat.
1929—rather dry but very good crop.
1930—less than average crop; two hail storms went through district
1931—less than average crop, too dry
1932—better than previous year, but less than average
1933—very dry and windy, the dry years were starting
1934—very very dry, almost a failure, not enough feed.
1935—real good crop, it gave us hope again
1936—light crop; too dry.
1937—our worst year, almost a complete failure.
1938—too dry, not enough moisture for crop.
1939—real good crop, we were sure the end of drought was here.
1940—very dry in parts of district north and east of town
1941—very dry, my wheat crop only 4 bushels per acre.
1942—bumper crop, everyone had plenty of grain.
1943—just average crop.
1944—bumper crop; one of best we ever had
1945—too dry, crop below average.
1946—crop looked good until July, then hot winds cut it down.
1947—too dry, crop below average
1948—too dry again, but rains went through in streaks, some fair crops.
1949—too dry, crop very light in some parts of district.
1950—too dry but fair crop in parts, some frost damage.

1961—very good crop, but harvest rains spoiled a lot.
 1962—bumper crop, all grain real good and fine harvest weather.
 1963—bumper crop again, some wheat yields over 60 bushels per acre.
 1964—good crop prospects, but severe rust cut yield and grade.
 1965—good crop generally but very bad hail, storm took a swath from west to east, and north from town.

Starting back about 1920 we had a very troublesome weed (the Russian Thistle) blow into our district and if the weather was just right for it to develop it would get the best of the crop and even if it was in the crop at all it was hard to cut and made the crop mean to thresh. Of late years the scientists have developed a weed killer spray called 2-4-D that will kill out the thistle and not hurt the grain if it is applied properly and at the right time. This spray will also kill many other weeds including pigweed and stinkweed and has been a great help to the farmers. It does not appear to be too certain yet if it will injure the soil in time, if it has to be applied too frequently.

f



Threshing with the
 North West Steamer
 in 1923

As for comparing prices between the prevailing prices for groceries in 1906 and 1965 I will show a few items from an old Hanley store bill of 1905. 1 lb tea 40c, 1 lb. dried apples 10c, 2 lbs. strawberry jam 40c, 100 lbs flour \$2.50, 1 lb butter 12c, 1 doz eggs 10c, 1 can tomatoes 15c, 1 lb coffee 18c, 1 bus potatoes \$1.00, 1 can salmon 18c, 1 loaf bread, 2 lbs. 10c, 1 can corn 10c, 1 can peas 10c, 1 lb sausage 10c. You will know what the prices are today. As for prices of dry goods and hardware I can remember when a pair of lub overalls was \$1.25 and a fairly good suit of clothes was 10 to 12 dollars. When I was on my homestead I would think I was rich if I had 10 dollars in my pocket. Nails used to be 5 cents per lb. and barb wire four to five dollars a roll.

Somehow in writing about other organizations I have not mentioned one that had a large membership in Macrorie a few years ago. This is the Old Age Pensioners Organization. Mrs. Anne Douglas our Premier's mother has been the Provincial President of this organization for many years. At the time the Macrorie branch was alive Mrs. C. T. Reid who before her husband died was living on a farm at Perdue, Sask., was Provincial Secretary. Mrs. Reid has lived in Saskatoon for a number of years. Mrs. Douglas also lives in Saskatoon. It seemed hard to keep the Macrorie branch going as there was always a lot of canvassing to do to keep up the membership and so much trouble finding anyone that could attend the annual meeting. However some of our former members are now taking out memberships in Saskatoon.

The people around Macrone have been very public spirited and have contributed much money and volunteer labour in support of many community undertakings. One of the first of these was buying the Strangely Ha, which later became the town hall. Then there was the buying of the rink and the churches. It owed to the Macrone Hall committee a great debt. Some of these things there has been a lot of money now donated to the building of the Community and the remodeling of the Legion Ha.

In looking over my records regarding the Wheat Pool organization at Macrone. The first meeting was held Saturday 1st 1924 with H. E. Hirston Chairman and W. A. L. Jones Secretary. From 1st February 1925 we had an organizational meeting when A. J. Murray was made chair man of our first Wheat Pool committee and J. W. Hadden was made Secretary. Of course this Wheat Pool committee has been carried on up to the present time with many different officers and agents.

To give an illustration of the cooperation must put in here Mr. Mayfield. History of the Macrone. I noted that I should not write any more about myself in this story, but Rev. Mayfield has been and myself were appointed to act as building committee to see that the building was well and we were to make arrangements to build it. Mr. Jones was agree with me when I was that he was sure that the work was left to Mr. Mayfield. He acted as foreman and a night man of the work was done by a shantyman who worked all work was kept until when this was tabulated it showed the total cost of the building to be over £2,000.00.

Following is the Macrone town hall history. Rev. Mayfield written in 1941. From the time the village community began sitting in this district room known as Macrone town hall it was given to the Strangely Workshop. The later members of the congregation who were an up there first persons recall that from 1880 to 1910 worship was held in the Macrone room located on the N.W. corner of about 2 miles northwest of the present site of the Village of Macrone. These services were conducted by the late Rev. Mr. Jones and the late Dr. P. Jones of whom preached upon some of the Epistles, Gospels and some with themes to the improvement in the village of Macrone. This was included in the Anglican Methodist room which was occupied by Rev. Mr. Morrison and Rev. Mr. Vetter. Mr. Vetter was a Presbyterian minister and a member of a Unitarian congregation. During this period of 1880 to 1910 and some were now had from some of the village of Macrone. Rev. Mr. Peterson. The first minister to be called to the village was called in 1912 by a Rev. Mr. Smith who resided in Macrone near Larch Lake. These services were held in the hall and I thought it was the pattern to be occupied by Mr. and Mrs. P. Jones. Mr. Smith later became a member of the village. The Rev. Mr. Mole was the first to be called to Macrone in the summer of 1914 and was the first minister to be called to the village. A church house was erected in Macrone during the present site of the Wm. Smith of house and the services were held in the old house and Rostrom Ha. After a short while they were taken down. The Macrone was later moved to its present site and in 1915 the church was called Mr. McEwen was succeeded by Mr. Jones then and a student until 1917 when Rev. P. Jones called. Macrone's first church building was made to a Minister in the fall of 1917 and was made by the Rev. P. Jones who moved into the village of Macrone with his family and held services in the Macrone School House. The church building was two stories until 1919 when services began in the Strangely Ha. From known as the Macrone Ha. The rental paid for the use of this hall including heat and light was \$100.00 a year which as usual was paid by the Ladies Aid. It might be

Book as well as a copy of the Macrone News, which was edited and owned by the Rev. L. B. Henn. All these documents were sealed in a water tight receptacle and placed in an aperture in the corner stone.

The members of St. Andrews College and Ministers from Saskatoon have contributed much aid to the work here, holding several Anniversary Services. In addition to those previously mentioned they include Dr. Laune McTavish, Dr. W. McPherson, Dr. J. L. Stewart and Dr. J. L. Nichol, all giving much inspiration to the cause.

As it was impossible to obtain sufficient money to complete the church and basement, the congregation decided to borrow \$1500.00 on February 15th, 1910 from the Bank of Montreal. This was done by twelve men signing the note to the Bank. Then the building was completed as it stands at present and the Dedication Services were held on May 24th and 25th, 1910, conducted by the late Dr. Oliver in conjunction with the Pastor, Rev. Henn. Rev. Henn continued as minister to the congregation until July, 1911 when, due to financial conditions the Finance Committee engaged the Dunblane Kirans field to succede Macrone and the Rev. J. H. Amlder was appointed by the Settlement Committee to the Macrone, Dunblane and Kirans charge. During Rev. Mr. Amlders term approximately \$650.00 was paid on account of the church note and lumber account. The present minister, Rev. W. R. McLean, was appointed to the present field in July, 1924, and during the past two years the district was canvassed and the mortgage which amounted with interest to approximately \$1450.00 was paid off, the Bank donating part of the interest and the Lumber Company which amounted to a sum of \$500.00 was also paid off, the Lumber Company donating their interest and the present ceremony completes the struggle to free the church from debt.

The ceremony mentioned above was on June 7th, 1931 when special services were held at which Rev. L. B. Henn who was our minister when the Church was built and Dr. J. S. Nichol who was at that time superintendent of Missions were present and conducted the services. At this time the Church Mortgage was burned."

Since this was written we have had a minister only part time on account of the shortage of students for the ministry and finally Kirans joined the Lucky Lake field. For the last four years Macrone and Dunblane have had the services of a student only during the summer months. At present the Sunday school is being carried on all year or when the weather and roads permit under the able leadership of Walter Ranting and Roy Maxfield. The Lutherans also have a Sunday School at Macrone.

For the four years, 1932 to 1935, the United Church student has been holding services at Brathurst as well as at Macrone and Dunblane.

As mentioned previously, R. L. Maxfield and Roy Gills have lived in Macrone many years and I have had more dealings with them than any one else that has lived in the village. I will endeavor to write a short biography of these two men and this will no doubt be interesting as it shows how people from distant places found their way to these new towns or districts and the part they played in building up a wonderful country. Roy Maxfield relates he came to Saskatoon in the fall of 1905, having made the trip from the East on a Harvesting Excursion. He had up to this time been going to school and college. He spent that fall on a big threshing outfit driving a very nice team of dapple grey horses. He later worked on the construction of the C. P. R. line near where Asquith is now and among other things he dug a well and found plenty of water at 15 feet. He was 18 years old on the 18th of August that summer of 1906. He joined the

Saskatoon branch of the Union Bank in November and rose to be Assistant by the summer of 1907. In September of 1907 he married an English girl Florence Smith without the Bank's permission so lost his job with the bank. After this he was an assistant with the Great West Furniture Co. of which J. S. Jernale was head but the British Blacks in Saskatoon was president. Roy says Mr. Jernale asked him to come with him in partnership and thinks he made a mistake in not doing this. About this time he decided to go to Minneapolis to work in the North Western National Bank where he went two years. Returning to Saskatoon in June 1911. He then went into the Real Estate business with his brother Gordon. He says they copied the list of outside mortgages in Saskatoon that went on and off and were busy about business papers in this. He adopted this same method of doing things. They did very well in the Real Estate business for a time so when the National Bank came in 1913 they finally gave up the Real Estate business and Roy decided to come to Outlook. He started working with L. F. Rottman in September 1914 and in the fall of 1916 returned to Union Bank at Outlook and was transferred to Marston in September 1917. Since coming to Marston Roy has helped in the building of the Orange Hall which has a two acre lot in the village and in erecting the Agricultural Building and Rink and also the Masonic Hall. He has also done his fair share of being busy in about town and community. He was appointed Inspector in June 1918. Along with his office as Inspector Roy has many times his appointment as Notary Public and Justice of the Peace and many more. Roy is a Canadian and all are. He now has an Insurance Agency and does some banking in Real Estate. Roy has been very much interested in sports and has attended Rinks at Saskatoon on several occasions and of course has ridden at the local rink ever since it was built.

Roy came to the name West in the spring of 1904 when he was nineteen being exactly the day ten years younger than the late W. L. McKinnon King. He spent the first summer around Outlook and Carleton Place but went back east that fall. He learned to be a geographer during the next two winters but spent his summers in the farm. Then he came west again on a harvest experience and obtained work as a travelling agent with the C. N. R. working at several stations in Manitoba that fall and off in January he worked for a father west of here on the balance of the winter. Roy says he had to haul water and feed his horses but no cattle and 14 horses and do other housework for 25 dollars per month. In the spring of 1906 he went back to the farm again but quit on July 1st and went to find relatives at Elbow. There he talked with a school teacher who wanted to buy a farm and Roy decided to do the same. As there were no homesteads near Elbow he crossed the river and found some good land near Lake taking up his homestead in August 1st. When pre-emption were opened up a few weeks later he hastened to Moose Jaw to obtain one travelling by bicycle from Elbow over the railway track.

Roy saw Marston for the first time on September 15th 1911 when he and his brother Elmer came up to get two loads of lumber for the roof of a new barn. Accommodations were lacking and they had to water their horses over at the farm of that is Lorne who directed them along a coulee to A. J. Roberts where they stayed over night. Thereafter they made Marston their town as it was much closer than Elbow and no river to cross. Roy mentions they did not get their 1911 crop threshed until the spring of 1912 as experience made it so bad that year. During May 1912 Roy came to town and taught some machinery. The Saskatchewan Forestry was just then being laid and the agent Herr Neale said he would be talking in school by a certain date so Roy Elmer and Norman brought in

three loads on what proved to be "Macrorie's First Annual Celebration, Friday, July 19th, 1912" (Ed Metcalfe has one of the red "Souvenir" ribbons). They of course took in the sports and Norman rode someone's horse in the saddle pony race while Roy played ball with a team mostly from around Goodwill.

The next morning, after several hours work moving lumber from the driveway they were able to unload their grain and were thus the first to deliver wheat to an elevator at Macrorie. That year they had a crop of about 4000 bushels wheat and 600 bushels flax, and the diary he kept shows that between October and April 1st 1913, he made 44 trips to Macrorie with grain.

Herb Neal had a rather good side line in an implement business he had purchased from Gordon Stewart and persuaded Roy to work for him at \$85 per month and sleeping accommodation in the elevator office. After about three months the elevator firm advised Neal to dispose of the implement line so he sold it to Roy. Oswald Parker built a house for Neal about that time, the latter being a newlywed.

Roy took Elmer Fendt as partner and they also started into the dray business - he bought Elmer out in the fall of 1914 and in 1916 sold the dray to Peter Jensen who was also a drayman. Peter's sister (Carolite) an early postmistress here, the Roy's cousin while another sister was the wife of Paul Johnson. Emil had a homestead north of town, a house in the village and clerks in a clothing store for a time.

In 1919 Roy invested his modest savings in a stock of groceries and started in the store business, taking Emil as a partner and operating as Gillis & Johnson. During 1922 they lost the store to fire. There were hard times and the loss was a hard blow. "I couldn't afford to do anything else but start up again, not even to buy lots on Main Street which would have been a great help."

Roy and Emil remained partners until 1933 when Emil and family moved to Saskatoon where he worked in Eaton's store. He died a few years ago but his wife and most of the family are still in the city.

Roy's plight in those times was typical of small town merchants. "I owed about \$9 000 and had about \$16 000 owing to me. I was broke but wouldn't quit. Put myself on a cash basis as far as buying was concerned and managed to pull out by 1942. Mrs Gillis had died in 1933 after considerable illness.

In 1945 Harold Barrie joined Roy as a partner but stayed only five years, then moved to Rosetown. Concerning his 44 years at Macrorie Roy says he has no regrets - hasn't made or accumulated much money, but has enjoyed solving his problems and feels he has made many good friends.

The Macrorie plains have produced not only some of the world's finest wheat and other grains and plenty of good live stock, but our schools have helped to educate many good scholars who have gone from here to fill important positions as business officers or as teachers or mechanics. There is one Macrorie boy I want to mention particularly - Professor Geo. E. Brinell who spent his boyhood on his father's farm here and when he was in his late teens he decided to go back to school and get a formal education. He is a good speaker and with the very thorough education he has received he is well known across Canada. I have a bibliography which I will have printed here and that will show some of the achievements of this very well known scholar and economist. He has also written many books and publications which I will not endeavor to name here.

George is married and they have two daughters. His wife was the daughter of the late W. H. Paulsen who was M.L.A. for Wynyard for a number of years.

G. E. Bruford

I. Education

- (a) Public and High Schools, Saskatchewan, University of Saskatchewan; London School of Economics and Political Science, University of Toronto,
- (b) B.A., University of Saskatchewan, 1929,
- (c) M.A., University of Toronto, 1934,
- (d) Ph.D., University of Toronto, 1938.

II. University Appointments:

- (a) Instructor in Economics, University of Saskatchewan, 1930-35,
- (b) Lecturer in Economics, University of Toronto, 1935-36;
- (c) Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Saskatchewan, 1936-38,
- (d) Professor and Head of the Department of Political Science, University of Saskatchewan, 1938-45,
- (e) Professor and Head of the Department of Economics and Political Science, University of Saskatchewan, 1945-
- (f) First Harold Innes Visiting Research Professor, Department of Political Economy, University of Toronto, 1954-55.

III. Other Appointments:

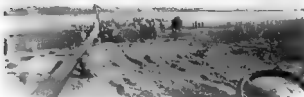
- (a) Economic Advisor to Government of Saskatchewan, Royal Commission on Dominion-Provincial Relations, 1937,
- (b) Member of Economic Research Staff of Royal Commission on Dominion-Provincial Relations, 1938,
- (c) Chairman, Dominion Government Royal Commission, Coal Mining Industry of Alberta and British Columbia, 1940-41,
- (d) Chairman, Dominion Government Royal Commission, Coal Mining Industry of Saskatchewan, 1941,
- (e) Economic Adviser, Wartime Prices and Trade Board, Ottawa, 1941-44;
- (f) Chairman, Economic Advisory Committee, Government of Saskatchewan, October 1944 to June 1945,
- (g) Special Advisor, Government of Saskatchewan, July 1945-51;
- (h) Chairman, Saskatchewan Freight Rates Committee, Government of Saskatchewan, October 1946-
- (i) Member, Special Committee on Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Relations, 1948-51,
- (j) Chief, Economic Mission to Guatemala, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, May 1950 to August 1951.

IV. Other Activities.

- (a) Canadian Delegate to 5th Conference, Institute of Pacific Relations, Yosemite, California, 1936,
- (b) Canadian Delegate to 2nd British Commonwealth Relations Conference, Sydney, Australia, 1938,
- (c) Member of Canadian Delegation to International Conference on Food and Agriculture, Hot Springs, Virginia, 1943,
- (d) Member, Social Science Research Council, 1948-52, 1955-
- (e) Elected Fellow, Royal Society of Canada, 1950,
- (f) Vice-President, Saskatchewan Archives Board,
- (g) Member, Saskatoon Library Board, 1951-4,

- (h) Chairman, Grants-in-Aid (Research) Committee, member Pre-Doctoral Fellowships and Professorial Leaves Committees, Canadian Social Science Research Council, 1953-
- (i) President, Canadian Political Science Association, 1956
- (j) Chairman, Canadian Social Science Research Council, 1956

Before I close the final chapter of this book I must write a few lines to tell of the persons I have had in working with the different very fine men with whom it has been my privilege to work. I know these men have been my true friends by their friendly manner whenever we meet and I feel sure they had confidence in me and knew I had confidence in them. I am a little reluctant to do this as I have been on so many different Boards of different organizations that I will be sure to miss someone, but will try to do the best I can and will only mention those who were on the Municipal Council with me, those that were on the relief committee at the time of the depression, and also the Telephone Board.



A section of the Inter-provincial pipe runs between Edmonton and Regina. Getting the pipe ready to push across the South Saskatchewan river in 1950. This is five miles east of Macrorie.

The picture of the Municipal Council, shows the full Council for 1929 and besides these there were two Reeves. The late Robert Sibbald was Reeve when I first went on the Council and after him P. H. Kennedy was Reeve until 1927. During this time the late O. J. Hopkins was councillor for Div. 3 for a few years and then J. E. McMillan took over. Tom Clark succeeded Harry Fransen as Councillor for Div. 6. Howard Mann was the representative for Division No. 2 when I was first elected and the late Sam Silverthorn was Councillor for Div. 4. Of those in the picture Mr. Quibell, Mr. Hornby, Mr. Ward and Mr. Quine are deceased. I do not know where Mr. Gardner is at present but Mr. Cole lives in Conquest. Mr. Kendall lives at Macrorie, P. H. Kennedy and Mr. Clark live in Saskatoon, and J. E. McMillan lives at Lindsay, Ontario.

As for the relief committee. The late David Morton was Chairman, the late Harry Franken was also a member. Ira Clark who now lives in Saskatoon was a member and another city resident, Stanley McKay was also on this Committee. A man from Hounby, Fred Clark, was also named on this board but I did not meet him. He must have missed the meetings I attended.

As for the Telephone Board, we had the late H. A. Metcalf, the late H. E. Britnell and the late Abe Smith, Ivor Kvale, Wm. Kendall, Harry

Hall, Bob Murray, Homer Shetterley, Ed Peachey, Joe Bodrug and August Simonson. Of course these were not all on the telephone board at one time. There were others who were on for short terms but I do not recall them all.

It gives me a lot of satisfaction to know that my former farms are in the hands of competent farmers. Mr. Kinsman is a very careful farmer and good manager. Willard Ross (who bought my brother Joe's old farm from me) is also a good farmer. His father John Ross bought the Roy Brundige homestead near Bratton when Roy moved to Milden. Willard and his brother Alex farmed around Bratton for some years. Also for a time Willard worked for the Singer Sewing Machine Co. He quit this work and farmed Section Five just west of me a few years until it was bought by John Farden (a son of Knut Farden Jr.) in the fall of 1950. John only kept this land three years and is now in business at New Westminster, B.C. Willard Ross and his son Willard also have a Locker Plant and Meat business at Lucky Lake. The father John Ross died recently at Outlook, where he had been living with a daughter, Mrs. John Cummings. Alex Ross is now in the machine business at Milden.

In reading this book you will no doubt notice that our people come from many different countries, spoke different languages and were used to different customs in their home lands. Still as you can easily see all have gotten along well together in Saskatchewan and are now all Canadians. As Harry Williams pointed out (when saying a few words at the P. Colombia party), the Macrorie and Bratton people have shown our rulers that we can all live together in peace.

As yet no oil or gas has been found near Macrorie and no deep drilling has been done nearer than Birsay, where a well was drilled a few years ago. Of course the search for oil or gas continues.

The Interprovincial (Oil) Pipeline was put through in 1950, so in that way we have thousands of gallons of oil flowing past every day. This line runs just three miles north of Macrorie and through the centre of my homestead. When it was built, people came for miles to see how the job was done, and especially where it crossed the river, which proved to be a very big undertaking indeed, and very interesting. During 1954 a second pipe was laid a few feet from the first and a third pipe has been put across the river, as they feared the first was not sunk deeply enough to be safe from damage by ice or other causes.

For many years now the P.F.R.A. engineers have been testing at the site of the proposed dam across the South Saskatchewan River, which if built will be about ten miles south-east of Macrorie. If and when this dam becomes a reality there will be a big change in the economy of the community. The future for our district looks bright and many old timers like myself are wishing we could become young again to see what will happen during another 50 years. Perhaps the next Jubilee will see the land irrigated, and the growing of many crops other than our present grains. The building of the dam should also bring cheap and plentiful power; but by then, perhaps nuclear power may also be available.

PRINTED BY MIDDLESEX PRINTING COMPANY LIMITED
LONDON, ONT.
JULY 1955

